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The purpose of this study was to examine the evolution of women's costumes in the following eight sports: archery, baseball-softball, basketball, bowling, field hockey, golf, lacrosse, tennis.

Research involved the examination of primary sources such as rule books, clothing catalogs, women's magazines, periodicals, books and photographs as well as correspondence with officials of the national sports associations.

The information indicated that sports costumes from 1875-1920 followed the fashion trends of the times but from the 1920's onward special costumes were developed. It has also been concluded that the nature of the game was the main factor affecting costume development.

THE HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN'S
COSTUMES IN SELECTED TEAM AND
INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

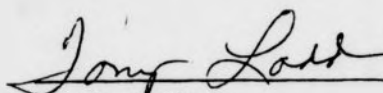
by

Judith D. Doull

A Thesis Submitted to
the Faculty of the Graduate School at
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Approved by


Thesis Adviser

APPROVAL PAGE

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Should we be silent and not speak, our raiment
and state of bodies would betray what life we
have led.¹

Clothes are an intimate part of ourselves. Morton says that "for the vast majority of the human race, clothes play a large part in making for happiness and success."² Experts maintain that man covers his body for the purposes of modesty, decoration and protection.³ According to Thomas, protection and decoration are particularly important in sports.⁴ Many sports costumes and uniforms not only protect the body against accident and injuries but also perform significant functions when used for adornment. In creating a desired impression upon others, they may inspire confidence in teammates or create fear and insecurity in opponents.

¹Coriolanus v 3, In John C. Flugel's The Psychology of Clothes (London: Hogarth Press, 1950), p. 15.

²Grace M. Morton, "Psychology of Dress," JOHE, 18 (1926), p. 584-586.

³Flugel, Op. cit., p. 16; Marilyn J. Horn, The Second Skin (New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1968), p. 12; Blanche Payne, History of Costume (New York: Harper & Row, 1965), p. 1; James Laver, Modesty in Dress (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1969), pp. 1-3.

⁴G. Patience Thomas, "Clothing and Sports: A Psychological Analysis," Quest XIX (January 1973), p. 103.

Some of the padded items used in sports costumes may distort the proportions of the body and so appear more threatening to an opponent.⁵ In this society, almost from the moment of birth, clothing separates the body from the surroundings. Because of this, the boundaries of the body are often extended to incorporate clothes into the body image.⁶

Clothing, especially designed for women in sport, is relatively new in modern culture. The development of specialized sports costumes for women proceeded at a slower pace than the evolution of men's sporting wear. Until recently, women continued to cling to the fashion of the time and the symbol of their femininity, the skirt. Rosencranz suggests that this development not only mirrors the acceptance and growth of sport for women but is indicative of women's place in society.⁷

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The purpose of this study is to examine the evolution of women's costumes in the following eight sports: archery, baseball-softball, basketball, bowling, field hockey, golf, lacrosse, tennis.

⁵Ibid., pp. 102-103.

⁶Horn, op. cit., pp. 89-97.

⁷Mary Lou Rosencranz, Clothing Concepts: A Social-Psychological Approach (New York: Macmillan & Co., 1972), p. 157.

The study attempts to answer these questions:

1. Who selected costumes for the particular sports?
2. How have sports costumes related to fashion trends?
 - a. How have individual sports costumes related to fashion trends in society?
 - b. How have team sports costumes related to fashion trends in society?
 - c. How have individual sports costumes related to team sports costumes?
3. How has the organizational structure of a particular sport affected costume?
 - a. Has the nature of the game affected costume development and selection?
 - b. Has the composition of the internal structure of sports associations affected costume selection and development?
 - c. Has the institutional affiliation of a sport affected costume selection and development?

DEFINITION OF TERMS

The terms specifically related to this study have been defined as follows:

1. Fashion trends refers to the styles of dress that were accepted or followed by substantial numbers of middle and upper class American women.

2. Individual sport refers to competitive sports that require only one person on a side or team.
3. Physical education programs refers to the physical activity that is part of an instructional program of an educational institute.
4. Sport refers to specialized games involving considerable physical skill. They are highly organized and played within a certain framework of rules.
5. Sport costume refers to the particular clothing worn for participation in sport. It includes all exterior garments, even headwear, footwear and handwear. It does not include special protective padding or equipment.
6. Team sport refers to competitive sports that require more than two people to comprise a side or team.

ASSUMPTIONS UNDERLYING THE RESEARCH

The following assumptions govern this study:

1. Primary sources are available for each of these eight sports.
2. Baseball and softball may be dealt with as one sport.
3. Costumes are an important component of sports participation.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is limited to costume evolution in the United States as it relates to the eight selected sports. Three factors were used

for the selection of the particular sports:

1. All sports must have a history of fifty years.
2. Sports using special media such as snow and water are not included.
3. A balance was maintained between numbers of indoor and outdoor sports as well as individual and team sports.

The time span of 100 years from 1875-1975 was necessary in order to present a total picture of the development of these sports. Men's costumes were not included as this would have added another variable to an already complex study.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Clothing as part of the body image acts as a second skin in establishing the physical boundaries of the self.⁸ According to Flugel "what we actually see and react to are not the bodies, but the clothes of those about us."⁹ This appears to be especially true in sports. Historical research is needed in the discipline of physical education and since little has been written in this particular area this study could provide the basis for further investigations.

⁸Horn, op. cit., p. 90.

⁹Flugel, op. cit., p. 15.

PROCEDURE

Information collected from primary sources such as rule books, clothing company catalogs, women's magazines, periodicals, books and photographs was reviewed with material received from the officials of the national sports associations. Where further clarification was necessary, correspondence was continued with particular individuals.

The data were critically examined for its internal and external validity on the criteria set forth by Van Dalen.¹⁰ Re-evaluation of certain sections of this study was necessary due to the information received.

The material researched is presented with the following headings:

- Chapter II Women's Sport Costumes in Western Fashion
- Chapter III Women's Fashion in America from 1875-1975
- Chapter IV Costumes in Individual Sports 1875-1975
- Chapter V Costumes in Team Sports 1875-1975
- Chapter VI Summary and Conclusions

¹⁰Deobold B. Van Dalen, Understanding Educational Research (New York: McGraw Hill, 1973).

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

Two factors have contributed to the paucity of literature directly concerned with women's sports costumes. First, sport as a subject of serious academic study has been ignored until recently; second, women have been presumed to be historically insignificant. Caution was called for in both the world of sport and fashion where people were promoting their favorite style, designer or activity as they were prone to make extravagant claims.

Primary sources used for this research were confined to those works printed in English. They included books, magazines, periodicals, clothing catalogs, rule books, photographs and personal correspondence. Ladies Home Journal and Sears catalogs were useful guides to note trends in fashion and sports costumes. Spalding Sports Guides, DGWS Rule Books, and magazines such as Outing, The Sportswoman, JOHPER, Sports Illustrated and WomenSports as well as books written by champion sportswomen provided an overall view of women's sports. Further primary information was obtained from many photographs as well as by personal letters to the secretaries of the national sports associations.

Many sports and fashion books have been published since the end of the nineteenth century and these provided valuable secondary sources. Some of the sports books with relevant information for individual sports were, Golf: Its History, People and Events, The

Official Encyclopedia of Tennis, and WIBC History.¹¹ The two books that contained the most relevant information for all sports were The American Woman in Sport and The Encyclopedia of Sports.¹² Team sport information was more scattered with the Rule Books providing a wealth of material.

Relevant information on American fashion and sports costumes was found in Historic Costume, Early American Dress, Silhouettes of Fashion and A History of Fashion.¹³

In tracing women's sports costumes from Egyptian times the most pertinent fashion publications were Fashion, 20,000 Years of Fashion, History of Fashion and History of Costume.¹⁴ These books

¹¹Will Grimsley, Golf: Its History, People and Events (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1966); USLTA, Official Encyclopedia of Tennis, Edited by the Staff (New York: Harper & Row, 1972); Women's International Bowling Congress, WIBC History, by the Association, 1967.

¹²Ellen W. Gerber, Jan Felshin, Pearl Berlin and Waneen Wyrick, The American Woman in Sport (Massachusetts: Addison-Wesley Co., 1975); Frank G. Menke, The Encyclopedia of Sports, 5th Rev. Ed. (New York: A. S. Barnes, 1975).

¹³Katherine M. Lester and Rose N. Kerr, Historic Costume (Peoria, Illinois: C. A. Bennett & Co., 1967); Edward Warwick, Henry Pitz and Alexander Wyckiff, Early American Dress (New York: Benjamin Blom, 1965); Sears, Silhouettes of Fashion (Skokie, Illinois: Sears, Roebuck & Co., 1968); J. Anderson Black & Madge Garland, A History of Fashion (New York: Morrow & Co., 1975).

¹⁴Mila Contini, Fashion (New York: Crescent Books, 1966); Francois Boucher, 20,000 Years of Fashion (New York: Harry Abrams Inc., 1966); J. Anderson Black and Madge Garland, A History of Fashion (New York: Morrow & Co., 1975); Blanche Payne, History of Costume (New York: Harper & Row, 1965).

contained many photographs of frescoes, paintings and sculptures to support the text.

Sports books providing useful historic information were Athletics of the Ancient World, Sport in Greece and Rome, Ball, Bat and Bishop, The Sports and Pastimes of the People of England and English Costumes for Sport and Outdoor Recreation: From the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Centuries.¹⁵

To the knowledge of the researcher there are only three studies which deal specifically with American women's sports costumes. The first study which was compiled by Miller in 1942 examined seven different sports costumes in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.¹⁶ The second was also written in the 1940's and this investigated physical education and recreational sports costumes.¹⁷ Ewing conducted the third research project in 1966 and this compared middle and upper class sports costumes in the 1870-1910 period.¹⁸

¹⁵Edward Norman Gardiner, Athletics of the Ancient World (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1930); Harold Arthur Harris, Sport in Greece and Rome (New York: Cornell Press, 1972); Robert W. Henderson, Ball, Bat and Bishop (New York: Rockport Press Inc., 1947); Joseph Strutt, The Sports and Pastimes of the People of England (London: Methuen Co., 1801); Phillis Cunningham and Alan Mansfield, English Costume for Sports and Outdoor Recreation: From the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Centuries (London: A. & C. Black, 1969).

¹⁶Wilma K. Miller, "The Study of the History of Women's Sports Costumes" (Master's Thesis, Ohio State University, 1942).

¹⁷Virginia L. Gunther, "The History of Women's Costumes in Physical Education and Recreational Sports Activities" (Master's Thesis, Wellesley College, 1943).

¹⁸Grace J. Ewing, "A Comparison of Clothing Worn by Middle and Upper Class Women Participating in Selected Sports Activities During the Period 1870-1910" (Master's Thesis, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1966).

These were the most relevant sources for this investigation. Other studies worthy of note will be printed in the text of the paper and noted in the bibliography.

CHAPTER 2

WOMEN'S SPORT COSTUMES IN WESTERN FASHION

The role of women in sport reflects the position of women in society. As competitive sport for women has not always been a part of every Western culture, this chapter will also include the costumes used for games, exhibitions and recreational activities.

Egypt

In this highly civilized society where women were honored and treated with respect, the popularity of games was evidenced by the paintings on their tombs.¹ The walls of the Ben Hassan tombs present a display of both acrobatic and ball games. These acrobatic performances imply physical agility and strength and long, strenuous training. The Egyptians loved shows of every sort and dancers and acrobats were introduced at their feasts to amuse guests. In most cases the acrobats were women and they performed stunts such as somersaults, cartwheels and pair activities. They were adept at ball games, or as we know it today, juggling. Their fame as dancers was well known. The acrobats were portrayed in straight sheath gowns called the Kalasaris, which had one or two tapered shoulder straps forming the upper part of the dress.² This was the normal

¹Mila Contini, Fashion (New York: Crown Publishers, 1965), p. 15.

²Edward Norman Gardiner, Athletes of the Ancient World (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1930), pp. 4-6.

dress of the time and was similar to the Empire Line. The dancers were more scantily clad and performed wearing either a loin skirt tied in front or just a narrow belt of pearls and gold.³ This was contrary to everyday fashion and therefore represents a specialized costume.

Crete

The Minoan civilization was highly developed and exerted considerable influence on the Greek people, particularly in the field of athletics.⁴ Women played an important part in both society and religion and although the Minoans worshipped many Gods their highest deity was the Mother Goddess. Their festivals were originally religious in nature but gradually evolved into spectacular shows of boxing, wrestling, bull vaulting, music, singing and dancing. Women were the only ones depicted dancing possibly because of the religious nature of the dances. There is no evidence of women boxing or wrestling but there is evidence that they participated in the sport of bull vaulting before large groups of spectators. There were many different vaults and one of the most dangerous required grabbing the horns of the bull as it charged, then performing a somersault over its back.

³Contini, op. cit., p. 21; Francois Boucher, 20,000 Years of Fashion (New York: Abrams Ltd., 1965), p. 96.

⁴Betty Jean Putnam, Concepts of Sport in Minoan Art (Doctoral Dissertation, University of Southern California, 1967), p. 1.

The women acrobats were dressed only in loin skirts and had bare upper torsoes. This was identical to the male acrobatic costume. Wrists were taped for strength and the lower legs were wrapped for protection. It is also suggested that these toreadors had cushion soles to lessen the jar when landing.⁵ Both men and women wore headbands to keep their long hair out of their eyes. In the early years of the Minoan civilization of Cretan women wore the same loin cloth as the men. It gradually lengthened and developed into a bell shaped skirt but the women did not ever cover their upper body. This may indicate a link between the costumes of women toreadors and everyday dress.⁶ Nevertheless, the toreador's costume did represent a dress which differed from everyday wear.

Greece

Greece is recognized by most historians as the birthplace of Western culture.⁷ Therefore, it is not a surprise to find that women held a place of importance in society and had many rights and privileges.⁸ Early Greek festivals were religious in nature with music, drama and sport providing much of the entertainment. The

⁵Blanche Payne, History of Costume (New York: Harper & Row, 1965), p. 64.

⁶Boucher, op. cit., p. 83.

⁷Deobold B. Van Dalen & Bruce L. Bennett, A World History of Physical Education (Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice Hall Inc., 1971), p. 32.

⁸Lucille Duberman, Gender and Sex in Society (New York: Prager Publishers, 1965), p. 6.

first Olympic Games were held in 776 B.C., but since women were not allowed to compete they had their own competitive events at separate festivals.

In Sparta in the 5th and 4th centuries B.C. there is evidence to show both women and men competing completely naked. This was not the case in the rest of Greece where they did not allow women to disrobe in public even when the male athletes did. Women competed in foot and chariot races as well as participating in swimming, ball games and dancing. The girl runners wore special chitons, shortened to above the knee and with the right shoulder bare. Their hair was loose and flowing.⁹ Swimming was popular for women and it is presumed that they swam naked. A ball game called Aporrhaxis which involved continuous bouncing of the ball was also played by women and for this they wore their everyday costumes. Apparently in this culture a distinction was made between the competitive sports and the purely recreational ones. Women had special costumes when involved in competition but wore their ordinary clothes for simple recreative pursuits.

Etruria

The Etruscans made their appearance in Italy in the 9th century B.C. and like the Greeks they held many religious and funeral games. Their favorite sport was chariot racing and they were famous for

⁹Harold Arthur Harris, Sport in Greece and Rome (New York: Cornell Press, 1972), pp. 168-169.

their horses and cavalry. They instigated the gladiatorial sports. In this society women had almost absolute authority and they took part in banquets, concerts, dances and athletic contests.¹⁰ The women dancers appear to have worn special costumes with decorations added to enhance their movement. Bells, wreaths and leis were often used. Usually, the dancing costumes were long and full and many had over-blouses of contrasting material.¹¹ Both men and women acrobats in Etruria wore the traditional loin cloth or perizoma which can be traced back to the Minoan civilization. In later years shorts were worn by women athletes and acrobats.¹² This culture appeared to understand the need for a special costume when taking part in vigorous physical activity as their dancers, athletes and acrobats all appeared in brief outfits.

Rome

The Roman conquerors were a practical people as they had been engaged in continuous warfare for years. They held many public games to honor Gods but these were primarily for entertainment and amusement. There is no evidence of women performing in these games. In later years the thermal baths replaced the games as centers of interest and these had indoor gymnasias for ball games, gambling

¹⁰Contini, op. cit., p. 45.

¹¹Payne, op. cit., p. 94.

¹²Larissa Bonfante, Etruscan Dress (Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 1975), pp. 19-21.

tables and great banquet halls. At this time women were welcome to attend plays and to join in intellectual discussions in the salons.¹³ They dressed according to the occasion: sumptuously for banquets and religious ceremonies, soberly for journeys and scantily for physical exercises. They went daily to the thermal baths which were open for them exclusively in the mornings. The bath was preceded by physical exercises chosen according to age, mood and physical fitness. Running, lifting dumb-bells and playing with hoops were recommended. Mosaics from the 3rd and 4th century A.D. show women in clothes similar to a bikini which revealed the body and certainly allowed freedom of movement.¹⁴ This two piece costume appears to have been the most advanced of all specialized sports costumes in the classical society.

Middle Ages

In 330 A.D. Emperor Constantine made Istanbul the capital of the Roman Empire and the western center declined. Such culture that did survive was almost entirely in the hands of the Christian Church. The Church reacted to the last centuries of the Roman civilization by regarding the body and bodily pursuits as evil. Women had little status or authority and remained completely covered by drab,

¹³Duberman, op. cit., p. 6.

¹⁴Contini, op. cit., p. 53; Boucher, op. cit., p. 122; Harris, op. cit., pp. 168-169.

monotonously draped costumes and little more than the tips of their shoes ever showed.

The Crusades of the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries set in motion many progressive trends that affected the whole framework of society. In this age of chivalry one of the tenets that governed a knight's behavior was to honor and cherish the female sex. Males rendered homage to both noble and common women thus elevating women in status. This encouraged greater elegance in dress.¹⁵

In the 14th and 15th centuries women participated in various sports. Ball games were popular in both France and England. Women played Stoolball, a forerunner of cricket; La Soule, a game for two teams; as well as a form of bowls.¹⁶ Hunting and hawking appear to have been popular pastimes with the nobles while tumbling, acrobatics and dancing were also practiced.¹⁷ No special clothing was worn as women continued to be covered from top to toe.

16th Century - 1875

Although sports activities were recreational rather than competitive in nature during these years, this era is an important

¹⁵Contini, op. cit., pp. 74-75.

¹⁶Robert W. Henderson, Ball, Bat and Bishop (New York: Rockport Press Inc., 1947), p. 60.

¹⁷Joseph Strutt, The Sports and Pastimes of the People of England (London: Methuen & Co., 1801), pp. 7-9, 174-176.

forerunner of the modern-day sports phenomena. The earliest stages in the evolution of women's modern-day sports costumes were represented by the riding habit, bathing gown and special trimmings.

The riding habit which first appeared in the latter half of the 16th century consisted of a cloak and an overskirt. It was worn with boots, cap and mask to protect the complexion.¹⁸ The development of the riding habit most obviously copied male attire as the jacket became very severe while the large skirt always covered the legs. This skirt was necessary because it was considered improper for a "real" lady to show her legs or even show she had legs. Buck¹⁹ introduces an interesting concept by stating,

the 18th century riding dress was masculine
in its upper half, feminine in its lower half,
thus setting the convention that women's dress
for sport should follow the form of men's dress.

Laver says this is a striking example of "sentimental displacement" and according to him the sensible thing would have been to masculinize the lower half and give women breeches. Nevertheless, the skirt was maintained while the upper part of the costume, where it did not matter, was made as masculine as possible.²⁰ He maintained that

¹⁸ Phillis Cunnington and Alan Mansfield, English Costume for Sports and Outdoor Recreation: From the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Centuries (London: A. & C. Black, 1969), p. 99.

¹⁹ Anne M. Buck, Costume for Sport: The Gallery of English Costume (Manchester: Morris Press, 1963), p. 3.

²⁰ James Laver, Modesty in Dress (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1969), p. 141.

women's sports clothes in their early years always showed this masculine trend in unessentials.

Bathing presented a slightly different picture as attempts were made to cover up the entire body. In the 17th century records show that ladies wore voluminous gowns made of canvas that filled like balloons to hide the shape of the body. However, these long loose sacks did not always keep the bather covered up as can be seen from this quote taken from the London Observer in 1856.

The water is black with bathers, for the females do not venture beyond the surf, but lay themselves on their backs waiting for the coming waves. The waves come and in the majority of instances, not only cover the fair bathers, but literally carry their dresses up to their necks, so that as far as decency is concerned they might as well be without any dresses at all.²¹

A change to a slightly more practical bathing dress took place in the 1860's. This consisted of trousers to the ankles and a bloused tunic top. By 1870 the bathing dress was becoming more elaborate. Drawers were fastened below the knee with scarlet ribbon. A basque bodice with short puffed sleeves was worn over this; stockings, shoes and a bathing cap completed the outfit.

Special trimmings as part of a specialized sports costume may be seen with both archery and cricket. When guns replaced bows and arrows as weapons of war, archery continued to flourish

²¹London Observer, As quoted in Cunnington & Mansfield, op. cit., p. 263.

as a sport. Green, the natural color for hunters, continued as the official color of the costume. Men did alter their everyday costume for this sport but women appear not to have deviated from the fashion of the time. The only concessions made by women were the special trimmings in their hats such as feathers or ribbons to indicate club membership. The earliest mention of women cricketers was in 1745.²² The players were dressed in white with one eleven wearing blue ribbons in their hair and the other team wearing red. The women wore their everyday clothes and only the distinctive ribbons identified each team.

In the United States of America horseback riding was considered a most salutary exercise and had been widely practiced from the beginning of the settlement. Fox hunting was included but prior to 1830 women did not actually participate in this. Although bathing and boating were popular very few women knew how to swim. In fact, the bathing costumes made it impossible. Ice skating in Central Park in New York City was a fashionable thing to do and roller skating was also popular. No special clothing was worn and women were not encouraged to physical exertion. Even in skating they were urged to "take hold of the coat-tails of their gentlemen partner to save incurring any fatigue of the exercise."²³

²²Cunnington and Mansfield, op. cit., p. 39.

²³Ellen W. Gerber, Jan Felshin, Pearl Berlin and Waneen Wyrick, The American Woman in Sport (Massachusetts: Addison Wesley Co., 1974), p. 24.

The Modern Era of Sports

Women's sport in America went through three distinctive developmental periods. The first included the latter part of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century. The second was known as the "Golden Era" from 1925-1935. The third is the contemporary era now flourishing in the 1970's.²⁴ The first period is characterized by the start of competition for women and the beginning of complex national sports organizations. At first the primary purpose of sport seemed to be the chance for a respectable social encounter. In the age of Puritanical sexual morality sport events gave men and women something to do together. Therefore, physical activities were most often co-educational. Since skill level was not high it was feasible for men and women to compete together. Sports were chosen which could be performed without raising an indelicate sweat as those who engaged in sport were "gentlemen and gentlewomen" who had no taste for hard effort. Moreover, clothing did not permit much movement. For example, the golfing uniform of 1895 consisted of long full skirts from waist to ankle over an assortment of petticoats, blouses with full length sleeves, starched collars and ties, jackets and broad brimmed hats.²⁵

²⁴Gerber, Felshin, Berlin and Wyrick, op. cit., p. 4.

²⁵Will Grimsley, Golf: Its History, People and Events (Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice Hall, 1966), p. 204.

Although this was a time of phenomenal growth in women's sports only rarely were concessions made in dress. Mostly women clung to the fashion of the time and remained restricted by corsets and layers of clothes.

It took another twenty years before special sports clothing became accepted. The 1920's produced the first genuine women's sports heroines who because of their prestige affected the development of women's clothing. Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly the Atlantic Ocean, popularized the wearing of slacks, as the first woman to swim the English channel Gertrude Ederle influenced bathing costume designs. Tennis players such as Suzanne Lenglen, Alice Marble and Helen Wills accustomed the eye to body exposure and fought major fashion battles. But it was 1929 before women could be seen with bare legs in public and 1937 before shorts were allowed.²⁶ These tennis players were directly responsible for advancing these fashion changes.

Since the 1920's sports clothes have continued to improve in many ways. They have not only become briefer but the quality of fabric is such that it allows movement. Women's sport apparel became big business, particularly in the sports of bowling, golf and tennis. Costumes were designed in styles and fabrics to suit the action and looks of the participant. Television forced the

²⁶Gerber et al., op. cit., pp. 34-35.

promoters and players to introduce color coordinates. Fashion designers such as Teddy Tinling have designed sports clothes exclusively and are widely known.²⁷ This contemporary era has produced the finest costumes of any time.

Summary

Although the use of specialized sports costumes is a recent phenomena in modern culture, such use actually has an extensive history in Western civilization. The Egyptians, Minoans, Greeks, Etruscans and Romans developed some form of special clothing for women who participated in vigorous exercise.²⁸ From the Middle Ages until the twentieth century when the 19th Amendment gave women the vote, women's limited participation in sport and the lack of any special costumes may be seen as a reflection of their place in society.²⁹ Since the 1920's however, special sports clothes have been produced.

Two distinct features stand out in this historical account. The first is the differentiation by the Greeks between dress for competitive events and that required for recreational activities. This theme is continued today where costumes are actually designed to assist the competitor. The second is the more recent practice

²⁷Carol Troy, "A Long Way Teddy," Woman Sports, September 1974, pp. 62-64, 66, 68, 78.

²⁸Contini, op. cit., p. 15.

²⁹Mary E. Buice, "The Effects of Social Change on Women's Physical Education Costumes," Pi Lambda Theta Journal, XXVII (May 1949), pp. 239-245.

of women's sports clothes copying male attire in ways that hindered rather than assisted performance. Was this because it was the only form of accepted sport's dress at the time? Overall it appears that special women's sports costumes have been developed in many of our Western cultures. To some extent they seem to give an indication of women's place in society.

CHAPTER 3

WOMEN'S FASHION IN AMERICA 1875-1975

In this study fashion refers to the styles of dress that were accepted or followed by substantial numbers of middle and upper class American women. Fashion is seen as an important social custom transmitted by imitation or tradition and one that illustrates the social, political and economic trends of the time.¹ It has even been suggested that so much of the character of man is expressed in his clothes that a history of fashion may be described as a history of life itself.²

Colonial Dress

Although early colonial dress reflected the different ethnic groups that came to this new land, all were basically French in design as Paris was the fashion center of the world. Differences were only evident in the colors and fabrics used and in the adornments and trimmings added to the costumes. The Puritans, Pilgrims, Quakers and the Dutch colonists all dressed in subdued colors and without any embellishments. However, the English, Virginians and

¹Pierre Clerget, "The Economic and Social Role of Fashion in 1913," The Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institute (Washington: Government Press, 1913), pp. 755-765; Adolph Klein, "Fashion: Its Sense of History, Its Selling Power," Business History Review, 37 (1963), pp. 1-2.

²Mila Contini, Fashion (New York: Crown Publishers, 1965), p. 12.

other Southerners continued to wear silk fabrics such as velvets and brocades of all colors and decorate their costumes with ribbons and lace.

The climate and the way of life forced the settlers to dispense with many of the fineries of fashion and more and more garments were chosen because of their durability and the practical protection they offered. The coastal towns of Baltimore, New York and Boston became the fashion centers while further inland the settlers wore more practical garments. Originally fabrics were imported from England and France but from an early time America produced its own domestic woolens, linens and some silks. Cotton was grown but not until the development of the cotton gin did it become widely used.

Early American Dress

The Civil War had two effects on dress. First of all, the making of uniforms led to the standardization of men's clothing sizes. Men's ready-to-wear garments developed directly from this. Secondly, dress generally became very sober as new democratic ideas restrained people from appearing too aristocratic. The lack of imported materials from England and the results of the French Revolution also had their effect. Whenever possible, however, ladies of the coastal towns followed the latest European fashions. They managed this by importing dolls dressed in the latest Paris fashions, then copying the styles.

The nineteenth century ushered in a more simple style of dress where the layers of petticoats disappeared and the long,

clinging, tubular silhouette became the fashion. This neo-classic style with its high wastline, low neckline and short sleeves was also known as the Empire Line. By the 1820's the waistline had returned to normal, the skirt grew fuller and the sleeves developed to balance the wide skirts. The hoop and crinoline replaced these layers of petticoats as the bell skirt became extremely wide by 1850. The front of the skirt was flattened by 1865 when all the fullness was pushed to the sides and back. The home sewing machine was developed in the 1850's and this had a decided influence on fashion as it made more clothing available and brought about a steady decline in the number of handmade garments.

The push for women's rights gained momentum at this time and was accompanied by reform movements for more functional and sanitary clothing. Although originally ridiculed by both the press and the clergy the Bloomer costume did survive. The only ones brave enough to wear it at first were the saloon girls but it did appear in the 1860's as the bathing costume and later was adapted by the cyclists and the physical educators.

1870-1880

During the 1870's the Paris Fashion Industry was halted by the Franco-Prussian War. This may be one reason for the conglomeration of styles seen in this decade.³ The silhouette passed through three

³Blanche Payne, History of Costume (New York: Harper & Row, 1965), p. 519.

phases but none allowed any freedom of movement. Throughout this time the bodice was tight and the corset indispensable. At first the bulkiness of the very full skirt of the sixties was drawn to the back and with the aid of artificial devices such as baskets, pads and cages produced the high bustled contour.⁴ Following this came the basque or cuirass bodice which extended down to the hips and had the fullness of the skirt falling from this lowered line. This line was then extended downwards and the fitted and boned bodice reached first of all the knees and then the floor. The most extreme examples of this were so tight about the knees that walking was difficult.⁵ The feet were hidden and women moved as if propelled by something invisible.⁶ The hair was worn long and pulled to the back while hats were small and gaily decorated with ribbons, lace, flowers and feathers. This was a time of rigid etiquette for all occasions. Dress was the exception and special costumes were prescribed not only for each time of the day but for each particular event. An invention that affected fashion at this time was the development of the paper pattern. When this was combined with the home sewing machine it started the move towards individuality in dress.

⁴Anderson Black & Madge Garland, A History of Fashion (New York: Morrow & Co., 1975), p. 285.

⁵Katherine M. Lester & Rose N. Kerr, Historic Costume (Peoria, Illinois: C. A. Bennett & Co., 1967), p. 209.

⁶Black & Garland, op. cit., p. 286.

1880-1890

The 1880's opened with the long tubular silhouette from the previous decade. Trailing skirts were fashionable as status symbols because it was impossible to work in them. However, within four years this style of dress was abandoned and the bustle returned. In its most extreme form the outward direction of the bustle was nearly horizontal and looked as if the wearer was attached to a pushcart.⁷ Hair was worn on top of the head with frizzed bangs on the forehead. Hats therefore had to be higher on the crown but were still extravagantly decorated. Shoes became more varied and pumps with pointed toes were made to match the gowns.⁸ At this time a dress reform movement was started to reduce the crushing weight of women's clothes. This coincided with an increased participation in sport and a more active life outside the home. Women began entering the business and professional world and this also simplified dress as work clothes had to be functional.⁹ The tailored ensemble was the practical contribution from this time. Tiny bonnets and tall flower pot hats added to the vertical silhouette seen at the end of this decade.

1890-1900

Although this was a time of ostentatious display by those who could afford it, women continued their emergence from the home

⁷Ibid., p. 289.

⁸Payne, op. cit., p. 528.

⁹Lester and Kerr, op. cit., p. 213.

environment. The straight lines of the previous era gave way to the now fashionable Hour-Glass figure. This accentuated the hips, bosom and sleeves. The skirt was gored and skillfully cut to fit smoothly over the hips before flaring out to a very wide hem. Huge leg-of-mutton sleeves gave fullness across the shoulders while the bodice remained corsetted and tight. Collars increased in height and were often stiffened by crinoline and boning. Wide brimmed hats with flattened crowns were worn to balance this additional width.¹⁰

Clothing for many sports activities was distinctly unfeminine at this time but still not functional. This is seen in the Gibson Girl Look which developed towards the end of this decade. It consisted of a mannish shirtwaister top with a high standing collar and bow tie, a tailored jacket and plain skirt reaching the floor. For business the tailored suit continued to be important and really initiated women's tailoring as a business. All shoes were narrow with pointed toes and medium heels but Oxford pumps were designed especially to assist with the sleek tailored look.

1900-1910

The opulence of the English Edwardian era was reflected throughout the world. It continued to be a very fashion conscious and etiquette-minded age. The Hour-Glass figure continued in popularity with the Dip Front being the distinctive characteristic of the first four years of this new century. This was a low bloused

¹⁰Payne, op. cit., p. 534.

effect which gave a mono-bosom appearance and enhanced the S-shaped figure. The skirt front was flattened and most of the fullness at the back trailed behind like a semi-train. The tailored suit and the walking suit continued to be popular and all the outfits had high stock collars. Hats were large and decorated lavishly. Large hat pins were used to attach these to the padded pompadour hairstyles.¹¹

The apparel industry was flourishing at this time and clothing was now mass-produced. Commercial patterns were available and the mail order system was introduced. In 1903 when Henry Ford organized his assembly line factory for producing Model T Ford cars a new fashion developed. Dust Coats or Automobile Dusters were worn by both men and women. These overcoats were very necessary in these early cars. Women wore their huge hats held on by large veils referred to as automobile veils.

Fashion changed considerably in the last five years of this decade as women straightened out the S bend and stood upright. The silhouette became pencil slim as skirts, shoulders and sleeves all narrowed. Skirts became so narrow in fact that "the gait of the Geisha Girl was fashionable because it was impossible to walk in any other manner" in these hobbled skirts.¹²

1910-1920

By 1910 the hobbled skirt was shortened a few inches to assist with walking. It was also altered in other ways. Some skirts were

¹¹Black and Garland, op. cit., p. 308.

¹²Lester and Kerr, op. cit., p. 227.

slit at the sides and the openings filled with silk, chiffon or brightly colored petticoats. The more daring ladies wore satin trousers under these skirts. The Peg-Top or Lampshade skirt was fashionable by 1912. This had the fullness at the top of the skirt while still retaining the pencil slim hem. All kinds of draping and pouffing was used to decorate these costumes. By 1915 skirts had shortened to be eight inches from the floor. As the hem line lifted more emphasis was placed on footwear. Boots of various colors were produced with their tops just reaching the edge of these shorter skirts. Although the outbreak of war in 1914 brought the Paris fashion houses to a standstill, the War had considerable effect on women's clothing in America. Women were recruited into war work and this meant their work clothes had to be uncluttered and practical. The cocoon or barrel silhouette emerged and styles were much freer. Nursing became important and special uniforms were developed. Mourning for the War dead led to the emergence of black as a fashionable color for both fabrics and jewelry. Finally, the War forced the American textile industry to develop its own chemicals as it had always relied on German laboratories for this.

1920-1930

Two pieces of legislation set the tone for this decade. The first, the 18th Amendment to the Constitution prohibited the sale of liquor and gave rise to the Speakeasy. The second, the 19th

Amendment gave the vote to women. Women were now legally emancipated and this newfound freedom began to show in their dress. The chemise silhouette with its loosened bodice, low waistline and short skirt became the fashion. Brassieres were an anathema and the band of cotton that was worn was designed to flatten not flatter.¹³ Corsets were not required as curves were "out." Hats were small with the cloche being the most popular. Many see-through fabrics were used and often the surface was covered with dangly, glittering beads and tassles. The change in moral codes was seen by women cutting their hair, wearing make-up, drinking and smoking in public and showing their legs, arms and backs.¹⁴

Chanel was the leading designer of this era. She made jersey knits popular and launched many new styles such as the boxy flat jacket which suited the casual straight look of this time. She instigated the fashion of costume jewelry and marketed a perfume that is still famous today.¹⁵ Chanel also designed a knee length, unshaped dress to be worn with ropes of pearls and long ear-rings. This became the costume to wear for both day and evening functions.¹⁶ Throughout this decade the length of the skirt varied and reached its shortest in 1928. In all this going up and coming down of the

¹³Sears, Silhouettes of Fashion (Skokie, Illinois: Sears, Roebuck & Co., 1968), p. 8.

¹⁴Black and Garland, op. cit., p. 320.

¹⁵Contini, op. cit., pp. 286-287.

¹⁶Sears, op. cit., p. 8.

hemline however, it stayed mostly uneven due to the extra layers or pieces of fabrics added to the costumes. By 1930 the length had dropped to mid-calf and full length skirts were fashionable for evening wear. Women began to give attention to the complete ensemble and hats, gloves, bags and scarves became very important.¹⁷ Make-up was now considered in a similar way. Sun tanning became popular and this led to the development of beach wear and abbreviated swimming clothes.¹⁸ The 1920's saw the start of great changes in sports clothes when costumes adapted for special activities began to appear.¹⁹

1930-1940

The 1929 Stock Exchange Crash was the forerunner of the Depression which overshadowed this decade. The clothing philosophy changed almost overnight and the slogan, "It's smart to be thrifty," showed the altered values.²⁰ Clothes had to serve for years and the classics that stressed quality and enduring style became popular. The shirtwaist dress, tweed skirts and twin sweaters were in this category. The long lean lines of the thirties clung to the body because the bias cut was used. The waistline returned to normal,

¹⁷Lester and Kerr, op. cit., p. 246.

¹⁸Black and Garland, op. cit., p. 326; Contini, op. cit., p. 287.

¹⁹Lester and Kerr, op. cit., p. 254.

²⁰Sears, op. cit., p. 10.

the neckline was high and the sleeves were full. Synthetic fabrics were developed at this stage and printed rayons were widely used. Hair was worn to shoulder length and was curled or waved. Hats were small and placed on the front of the head. Shoes were mainly oxfords with Cuban heels. Open-toed sandals appeared and casual tops such as the halter top and two-piece sun dress emerged.²¹

Schiaparelli rose to fame as a designer in this decade. By 1935 the shoulders widened with the use of shoulder pads and the square Schiaparelli look with a fuller skirt to knee length was accepted. Colors brightened and Schiaparelli's shocking pink became the "in" color. The little black dress with one string of pearls was introduced at this time and became very fashionable.²²

1940-1950

With the German occupation of Paris and London's involvement with the War, New York was left as the main fashion center of the world. Fashions were not frozen at this time but were restricted. The War Production Board limited the use of material in various ways. No patch pockets, no full or wide sleeves, no double-breasted jackets, no full skirts and no cuffs on trousers were a few of the regulations made to save money. There were lots of publicity drives to save clothes and make them over into something else.

²¹Lester and Kerr, op. cit., p. 254.

²²Black and Garland, op. cit., p. 328.

There was clothes rationing as well as food rationing and among other things this allowed only three pairs of shoes per year. Nylon stockings were also rationed because nylon was needed in the war effort. Women wore functional clothing for utility and safety as they served their country in many ways. Dirndl skirts and "sloppy joe" sweaters appeared. Hair became longer and the pompadour style or Page-boy cut was fashionable. Hats grew larger to accomodate these new styles. By the end of the decade separates were popular. Blouses, skirts, jackets, slacks and shorts could be mixed and matched for ensemble harmonies.²³

After the War, Christian Dior launched the "New Look." It had a cinched-in waistline and accentuated the hips and bust. The full skirt fell to within eleven inches of the floor. The re-introduction of curves meant the re-introduction of the corset. This lasted only from 1947 until the early part of the 1950's and it was seen as a reaction against the non-feminine, utilitarian war clothes.

The effects of the War on fashion were many and varied. General Montgomery's duffle coat, fastened with toggles was adapted by both sexes. The shoulder bag was copied from the service uniforms. Turbans and head scarves that were used during the war retained their popularity even though brimmed hats were no longer rationed. Paris was no longer the exclusive fashion center of the world and for the

²³Sears, op. cit., p. 12.

first time in history fashion was derived from the proletariat as well as the privileged.²⁴

1950-1960

After the difficulties of the War and the austerity that followed in England and France, the fifties saw an uninhibited return to luxury. This was particularly so with evening clothes.²⁵ In 1950 America's ready-to-wear clothes were of a quality unknown to the rest of the world. When they appeared in London and Paris they began to change the fashion scene. Now it was possible to achieve high fashion without the fuss of fittings and for a cheaper price.²⁶ The silhouette changed in 1953 to the straight sheath look. The pencil slim skirt came to mid-calf and had a pleat in the center back. The shoulders widened again but not to the exaggerated look of previous years. Shoes lengthened and narrowed and soon the stiletto heels with pointed toes appeared. Sling-back sandals and black suede pumps were very popular. The Topper or Swagger coat was worn over the pencil slim skirt and remained in fashion for some years. In the mid-fifties Chanel's square cut suit came back on the market. The jacket became a classic and hung straight to the hip line. In 1958 came the revival of the neo-classic style with its high waistline and slim skirt. The saque or chemise gown was also popular at the end of this decade. These

²⁴Black and Garland, op. cit., p. 332.

²⁵Ibid., p. 338.

²⁶Ibid., p. 336.

elongated dresses were worn with the elongated shoes. Stretch fabrics were introduced and lamination, a process that seals layers of fabric together, revolutionized coatings.²⁷ Fake furs began to catch fashion's fancy at this time. This era saw a marked acceptance of slacks, pants, shorts and in-betweens for women. They were very popular for practical purposes.²⁸

1960-1975

The early saque style became the shift and the hemline started to move up. As the skirt shortened the leg became more important and pantyhose were introduced. Knee high boots also became the vogue. Heels of shoes were very flat to go with the short skirts. The skirt length moved above the knee to become the mini and shortened even further to produce the micro-mini.

The biggest trend was the move to unisex or genderless clothing. Pants and tops were the same and the male hair style became longer and quite shaggy. The jump suit, pant suit and space suit all became popular. The textile industry made miracles come to pass with the new furs, stretch fabrics and synthetics such as vinyl and imitation leather. It also produced fabrics that shed water, did not wrinkle and did not need ironing. For the first time ever, youth became important in the fashion world. Denim or jean cloth became

²⁷Sears, op. cit., p. 14.

²⁸Lester and Kerr, op. cit., p. 267.

a status symbol because of this and it was young people who prevented the hemline from dropping in the late sixties.²⁹ Mary Quant was the designer of the sixties and she produced unconventional clothing as she mixed colors, styles and fabrics together. Bright colors were added and make-up became very important.³⁰ Modesty was no longer a virtue and bareness appeared. Hipster pants showed the naval while see-through blouses and cut-out dresses appeared as well as very brief sun clothes.³¹ Hairdo's varied and wigs reappeared on the fashion scene. Metal discs linked together and metal woven into fabrics were examples of new innovations. The classic garment for women in the seventies has become the pant suit and this has affected many existing social rules. This has coincided with the growth of Women's Liberation movements and the idea that there are many different forms of correct fashion.

Summary

Women's fashion in America has been closely allied to world fashion. In early years the practicality and durability of the garment had to be considered but whenever possible the European styles were followed. New York fashion houses and American designers have since made a considerable impact on local and world fashion.

²⁹Sears, op. cit., p. 16.

³⁰Black and Garland, op. cit., pp. 347, 351.

³¹Ibid., p. 354.

Since early times many different materials were produced locally and in the development of synthetic fabrics America is undoubtedly the world leader. Early styles suggest that fashion moves in cycles and that the tubular, bell shaped and back-fullness types keep recurring. However, since the second decade of the twentieth century with its cocoon silhouette the only deviation away from this fairly slim straight line was in 1947 with the New Look produced by Christian Dior. It is possible that women's emancipation may be reflected in the freer form of dress and the acceptance of many different forms of fashion.

CHAPTER 4
COSTUMES IN INDIVIDUAL SPORTS 1875-1975

ARCHERY

History

Women were accepted as part of the National Archers Association from the beginning and at the first tournament in 1879 there were eighty-nine participants of which twenty were women.¹ In these early years archery was primarily a sport for the upper classes and was one of the most popular during the latter part of the nineteenth century. The general sports boom of the 1920's reawakened an interest in archery that has continued to expand to this day. It was an Olympic Games sport in 1908 and 1920 and when it was re-introduced in 1972 the only two gold medals awarded were won by the United States.²

Actual numbers of regular participants were difficult to obtain, as the Secretary of the NAA did not reply to the researcher. However, in 1955 it was estimated that there were four million men, women and children who participated in target archery.³ Since women

¹Henry S. Cummings, "A Story of Archery," in Selected Archery Articles (Edited by M. L. Driscoll, DGWS), (Washington, D. C.: DGWS, 1971), pp. 8-11; Paul Gordon, The New Archery (New York: Appleton-Century Co., 1939), pp. 28-29.

²Gerber et al., The American Woman in Sport (Massachusetts: Addison-Wesley Co., 1974), pp. 88-89.

³Reginald Wells, "Pulling the Long Bow," Sports Illustrated, August 8, 1955, pp. 48-51.

have always been included, perhaps it was the men who have been discriminated against. The rules allow women to compete against men in any event and for the awards of that event, but do not allow men to compete in women's events.⁴

Costumes

Although women's archery costumes appear never to have deviated from the fashionable styles of the times, archery protocol has dictated the color to be worn. In the early years green was the official color and women indicated their club membership by the addition of special trimmings such as feathers and ribbons.⁵ In the 1880's various descriptions of costumes were located. One described the outfit as a velvet suit in Lincoln green with silver trimmings and a Tyrolese hat.⁶ Another says "ladies wore a jacket of green cloth and a white skirt."⁷ Figure 1.1 shows a woman archer in a darkish colored full length gown. There is considerable draping of the overskirt with the fullness drawn to the back. The bodice and sleeves are tight and the waist is cinched in. The neckline is

⁴Francis Riherd, "A Study of Sports Opportunities for Girls and Women in the U. S. as Offered by National Organizations" (Masters thesis, Ohio State University, 1953), p. 156.

⁵Cunnington and Mansfield, op. cit., p. 175; Herbert Manchester, Four Centuries of Sport in America, 1490-1890 (New York: Derrydale Press, 1931), p. 228.

⁶Agnes Fraser Sandham, "Thoughts on Archery," Outing VII (January 1886), p. 371.

⁷Manchester, op. cit., p. 228.

filled in with a fischu or scarf-like cloth and a brimmed hat completes the outfit. This is very much in keeping with the fashion of the time. At the beginning of the twentieth century the women archers followed the Edwardian fashions of the decade. Long full skirts, tight waists, high collars, jackets and ornate hats hampered her performance. Skirts and separate blouses began to appear and these gradually replaced the complete dress as a sports outfit. (Figure 1.2.)

By the 1920's, archery clothes were much freer as were the fashions of the time. The skirt was shortened to mid-calf and later knee length, while the straight boyish silhouette with the dropped waistline was combined with a lower neckline and short sleeves. Stockings were worn with either heeled shoes or flat track shoes and socks. Headgear consisted of various styles of hats, bandanas and sun-shades. It is apparent from the photographs of this time that a light colored dress was always worn while the style remained a matter of individual choice.⁸ (Figure 1.3; 1.4.)

Throughout the thirties, forties and fifties women continued to dress as the fashion trends dictated but almost without exception a white skirt or white dress was worn.⁹ (Figure 1.5.) White shirts

⁸Louis Smith, "The Record Breaking Archery Tournament," The Sportswoman (October 1931), p. 12; Louis Smith, "1929 is Banner Year for Archery," The Sportswoman (November 1929), pp. 10-11; Robert P. Elmer, Archery (Philadelphia: The Penn Publishing Co., 1926), p. 142

⁹Gordon, op. cit., p. 45.

and trousers were mandatory for male target archers in 1967, so perhaps this indicates white as the official color for women archers as well.¹⁰ In 1963, the current World Champion was pictured in flat canvas shoes, a short wrap-around white mini skirt and a red sleeveless top. (Figure 1.6.) However, in recent years slacks have been the most popular among both college and club participants. (Figure 1.7.)

In field archery there is no uniformity in clothing and camouflage suits are the most common.¹¹ However, in 1955 it was stated that many field archers wore Robin Hood hats.¹²

Over the years archery costumes have stayed very close to the fashions of the time. Individuality was seen in the style of dress while uniformity prevailed in the matter of color. Green was the official color in early years with white prevalent in later times.

¹⁰G. Howard Gillelan, "Clothes for Bowman," Outdoor Life, CVL (September 1967), p. 82.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²Wells, op. cit., p. 48.



Figure 1.2
Archery Tournament 1908¹⁴

¹⁴Gerber et al., op. cit., p. 87.



Figure 1.1

Archery Costume 1886¹³

¹³Agnes F. Sandham, "Thoughts on Archery," *Outing*, VII (January 1886), p. 370.



Figure 1.3

Archery Champion 1928¹⁵

Figure 1.4

Archery Competitor 1929¹⁶

¹⁵"California Archery Champions," The Sportswoman, April 1929, p. 19.

¹⁶Louis Smith, op. cit., p. 11.



Figure 1.5
Champion 1941¹⁷



Figure 1.6
World Champion 1963¹⁸

¹⁷Individual Sports Guide, 1942-43, AAHPER (New York: A. S. Barnes, 1942), p. 32.

¹⁸Virginia Kraft, "She Started at the Top," Sports Illustrated, August 5, 1963, p. 40.

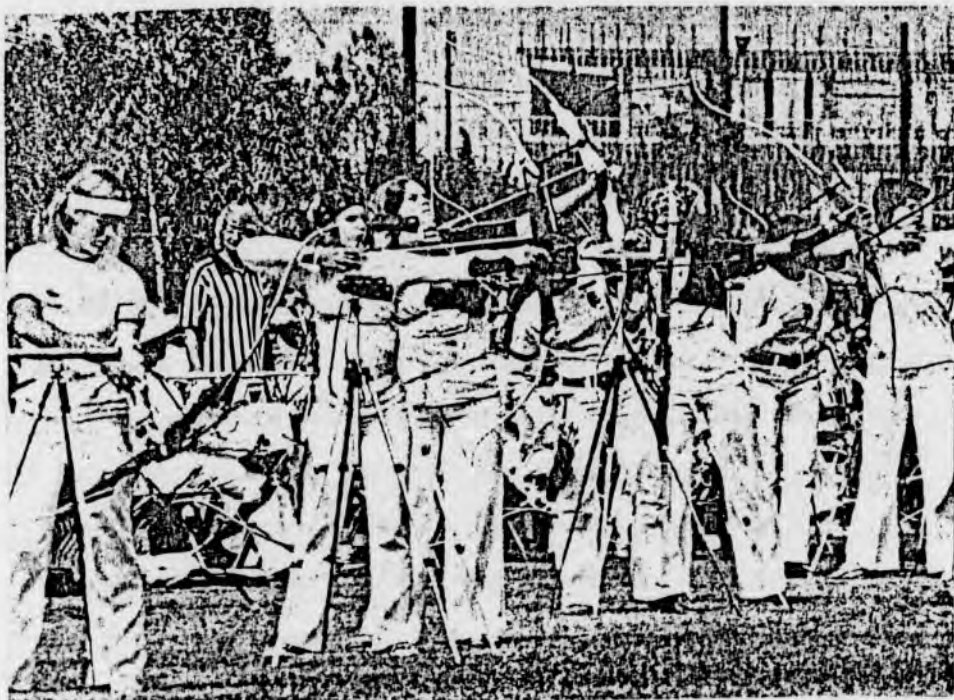


Figure 1.7

College Archery Championship 1975¹⁹

¹⁹Francie and Steve Hatch, "College Archery," Sportswoman, September 1975, p. 16.

BOWLING

History

As an amusement for upper class men and women, the National Bowling League was formed in 1875.²⁰ Records indicate however, that the earliest competitive bowling for women took place in Chicago in 1905 although it was not until 1916 that the Women's National Bowling Association was formed.²¹ This association which later became the Women's International Bowling Congress has conducted national tournaments since 1916 and state competitions since 1920. Its membership has been open to women only, although it has worked in close cooperation with the American Bowling Congress.²²

Bowling continued with a steady growth pattern until the early 1950's when a phenomenal increase occurred. This coincided with the invention of the automatic pin-spotters,²³ but the WIBC maintains that the bowling apparel and equipment have also played their part in popularizing the game.²⁴ The incentive of prize money which has been available since the first national tournament may

²⁰Gerber et al., op cit., p. 95.

²¹Letter from Chris Igler, Editorial Assistant, WIBC, April 27, 1976.

²²Letter from WIBC, April 27, 1976.

²³Menke, 1975, op. cit., p. 228.

²⁴Women's International Bowling Congress, WIBC History (by the Association, 1967), p. 54.

have also assisted in gaining members. The total purse in 1916 was \$222, whereas by 1967 it had grown to \$296,760.²⁵ The number of regular participants has been as follows: 1916 - 40; 1920 - 1,000; 1926 - 4,500; 1935 - 13,000; 1946 - 250,000; 1950 - 495,000; 1958 - 1,000,000; 1965 - 2,700,000; 1975 - 3,700,000.²⁶ Originally the Midwest dominated the game, although many early players came from the East coast and Northeast regions. Today, however, members come from all the states.

Costumes

Fashion has not always been an important part of bowling but whether it has been middies or minis, knickers or trousers, bowling apparel has reflected the times. In the 1870's and 1880's, women wore their everyday clothes. Figure 2.1 shows a tubular style of dress with the tight cuirass bodice restricting free movement. This full length dress was accompanied by a gaily decorated hat. In 1890 women bowlers were advised to wear low comfortable shoes such as tennis shoes while it was recommended that the corset be loosened to allow some freedom of movement.²⁷ A picture from the 1890's shows full sweeping skirts with considerable back-fullness. Small capes or bertha collars and picturesque hats completed the

²⁵Ibid., p. 62.

²⁶Ibid., p. 62; Letter from WIBC, April 27, 1976.

²⁷M. Bisland, "Bowling for Women," Outing, XVI (April 1890), pp. 33-36.

outfits.²⁸ Sophie Gundrum, a bowler of the early 1900's, advised a skirt in short or walking length to be worn with a loose top. She advocated a shirt-waister or any blouse that gave ease at the neck and armholes.²⁹

The first uniformly dressed team is pictured in 1910, and they are wearing the separate skirt and blouse outfit that became popular with all sports.³⁰ From this time on, team uniforms were an important part of bowling costumes. In 1916 participants were seen in the bloomer pants with the sailor top as well as in long full skirts with shirt waister blouses and bow ties. With the disappearance of the waist pinching corset and the new freedom of clothing styles in the 1920's, skirt lengths rose and bowling costumes became lighter. Teams still dressed in uniforms but a wide range of garments appeared. The waistless shift of the time was popular (Figure 2.2), as were the knickers worn with short sleeved blouses and a large bow. (Figure 2.3.)

During the 1930's, bowling costumes retained their freedom of movement but the skirt length dropped with the fashion of the time to measure between 9-12 inches from the floor.³¹ (Figure 2.4.)

²⁸"The Way We Were," The Woman Bowler (January 1976), p. 1

²⁹Sophie Gundrum, In The Delineator, July 1902, as quoted in The Woman Bowler, July-August, 1975, p. 34.

³⁰"The Way We Were," op. cit., p. 1.

³¹"Old Things, Old Times," The Woman Bowler, July-August 1975, p. 34; WIBC History, op. cit., p. 20.

Slacks in high-waisted and tailored styles teamed with satin blouses began to appear in women's leagues. Although blouse and skirt/slack combinations retained their popularity during the 1940's, bowling clothing manufacturers introduced the "bowling dress." (Figure 2.5.) Initially, this consisted of a grey gaberdine dress with pleats in the skirt, back bodice and sleeves. With its emphasis on utility and comfort, it was a drab outfit.³² Slacks lost their popularity, and in the fifties and early sixties, dresses and blouses and skirts replaced them.³³ (Figures 2.6 and 2.7.) The WIBC assisted with this trend by banning slacks at the national championships from the 1940's on.³⁴ This taboo on slacks was also emphasized in The Woman Bowler in 1961 when it stated that "just as slacks and shorts are out of place on a city street, they are out of place in a bowling center."³⁵

During the 1960's the knit revolution created a whole new look in sports clothes. Materials that moved and breathed gave maximum freedom for movement and replaced the bulkier pleated styles. The

³²"Old Things, Old Times," op. cit., p. 34.

³³J. Audsley, Bowling for Women (New York: Sterling Publishers, 1964), pp. 36, 46; Sylvia Wene, The Bowling Women's Guide (New York: McKay Co., 1959), pp. 25-26; WIBC History, op. cit., p. 32.

³⁴Letter from WIBC, April 27, 1976.

³⁵Paul Brunner, In The Woman Bowler, February 1961, as quoted in "Old Things, Old Times," op. cit., p. 34.

pant suit also came into fashion once the WIBC removed its ban in 1965. Since then, the only regulations regarding clothes has been the ban on shorts at the national championships.³⁶ Today's bowler has a wide range of fashion garments to choose from (Figures 2.8 and 2.9), but not as far as shoes are concerned. Footwear has always been of a special kind to prevent slipping and to protect the floor.

Although women bowlers have stayed close to the fashionable styles of the times, they have been aware of the need for freedom of movement. Most bowling attire is rather conservative and few extremes are worn. As early as the 1940's, clothing manufacturers were awake to the lucrative market in this area. They have not only designed special clothes, but have sponsored tournaments and awarded prizes. Team uniforms have played an important part in bowling costumes and may be a result of the sponsorship given to teams. Many industrial firms have a long history of sponsorship in this sport and this is one way they can get free advertising.

³⁶Letter from WIBC, April 27, 1976.



Figure 2.1

Ladies Bowling 1882³⁷

³⁷Manchester, op. cit., p. 226.



Figure 2.2
Bowling Champions 1926³⁸

³⁸WIBC History, op. cit., p. 11.



Figure 2.3

Bowling Costumes 1923³⁹

³⁹The Woman Bowler, July-August, 1975, p. 14.



Figure 2.4
Bowling Costumes 1938⁴⁰

⁴⁰WIBC History, op. cit., p. 20.



Figure 2.5
Specially Designed Bowling Dress⁴¹

⁴¹Wene, op. cit., p. 25.



Figure 2.6

Bowling Dress 1950's⁴²

Figure 2.7

Bowling Outfit Early 1960's⁴³

⁴²Wene, op. cit., p. 25.

⁴³Audsley, op. cit., p. 26.



Figure 2.8
Bowling Costume 1975⁴⁴

⁴⁴Ron La Brecque, "And She Has Personality to Spare," Women-Sports, November 1975, p. 31.

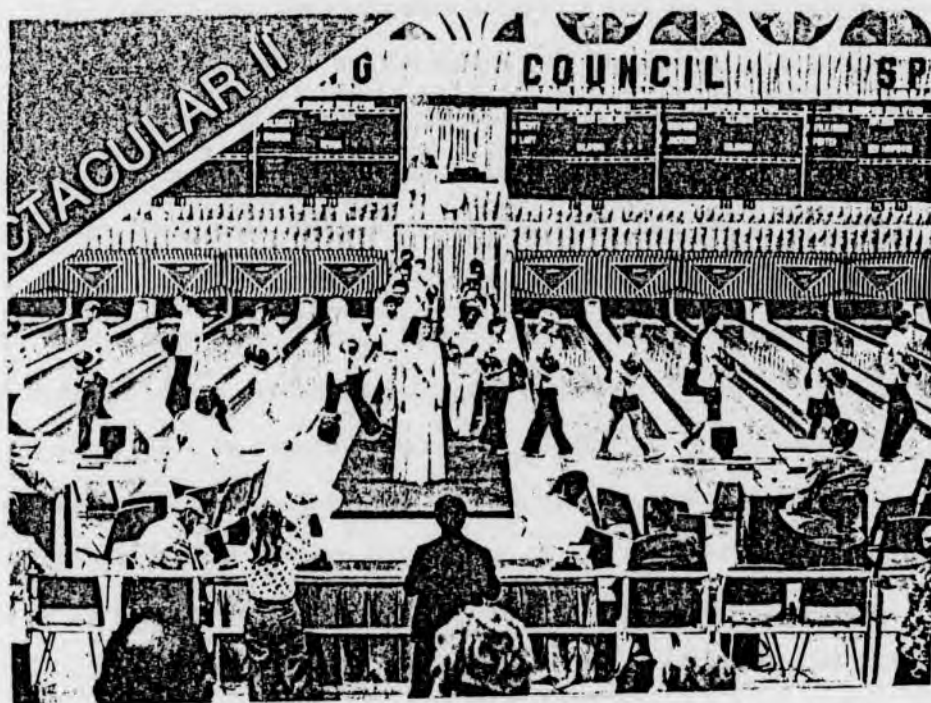


Figure 2.9

Bowling Spectacular 1975⁴⁵

⁴⁵"Bringing Together Bowling's Best," The Woman Bowler, November 1975, p. 15.

GOLF

History

The 1880's saw the emergence of this sport on a regular, competitive basis and with the formation in 1894 of the United States Golf Association as a controlling body for all amateur golf.⁴⁶ This association has conducted national championships for women since 1895 when there were fewer than 100 players. Numbers of players increased steadily and within five years there were twenty-two clubs in the New York area alone. By 1916 it was estimated that women purchased fifteen percent of all golf equipment.⁴⁷ From the 1920's golf has vied with tennis as the most popular sport for women over the age of 18 years. The USGA has a separate committee of women to control women's matters but as one of the twenty-two sub-committees it is answerable to the executive. Originally members came from the Northeastern states, but before very long every state had many women participants. The boom in women's golf began in the 1960's as can be seen by the following figures relating to numbers of participants: 1895 - 100; 1947 - 478,000; 1950 - 610,000; 1960 - 875,000; 1965 - 1,685,000; 1971 - 2,143,000; 1975 - 2,859,000.⁴⁸

⁴⁶Gerber et al., op cit., p. 105; Menke, op. cit., p. 503; Letter from Janet Seagle, Librarian, Museum-Curator of the USGA, April 20, 1976.

⁴⁷Ibid.

⁴⁸Ibid.; Letter from USGA, April 20, 1976.

Costumes

Women's golf costumes have now come full circle. In the early days they followed strictly the fashionable styles of the time whereas today they are setting new trends in casual wear. In 1895 at the first tournament dress for players was heavy and cumbersome. Long skirts reached the ground and were worn with many petticoats. Blouses had full length sleeves as well as starched collars and were worn with long sleeved jackets. Brimmed hats covered elegant hairstyles and were held in place by gigantic hat-pins or tied on with veils.⁴⁹ It seems amazing that they were able to swing a club at all. Striped material was popular and women wore many bright colors. (Figure 3.1.) This appears to have made up for the practicality of the dress and the lack of any adornment. In 1898 it was stated that frills and finery would never smother golf, for the players insisted on thick boots and stout and intearable frocks.⁵⁰ (Figures 3.2 and 3.3.)

In 1900 a different costume was advocated for summer and winter. In winter a flannel skirt three inches from the ground was worn with a jacket of scarlet cloth. A soft felt alpine hat trimmed with a plaid silk scarf and long quill completed the outfit.

⁴⁹Will Grimsley, Golf: Its History, People and Events (Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice Hall Inc., 1966), p. 264.

⁵⁰H. L. Fitzpatrick, "Golf and the American Girl," Outing, XXXIII (December 1898), pp. 294-298.

For summer a duck skirt and shirtwaister was worn with an alpine hat or a straw sailor hat while chamois gloves were advocated to protect the hands. Russet shoes with hobnails or bits of rubber on the soles to prevent slipping were necessary for both seasons.⁵¹ Costumes remained restricted in the early years of the twentieth century and the Hour-Glass figure with its dip-front was also advocated as a golf costume.⁵² Hecker, the national champion of 1903 also preferred a restricted costume, as she considered the corset very necessary.⁵³

From 1910 onwards it was evident that the skirt and blouse outfit had replaced the full dress as a regular golf costume. This combination was often worn with a long sleeved jacket and a hat of individual style. Boots or shoes complete the outfit.⁵⁴ (Figures 3.4 and 3.5.) During this decade hats became optional and many golfers were seen sporting the pompadour hairstyle.

⁵¹Mrs. Burton Kingsland, "Good Form For All Occasions," Ladies Home Journal, XVII (July 1900), p. 16.

⁵²Katherine Vaughan Holden, "Simple Vacation Dresses for Girls," Ladies Home Journal, XVIII (July 1901), p. 25.

⁵³Genevieve Hecker, Golf for Women (New York: Baker and Taylor Co., 1904), pp. 26-30.

⁵⁴Ashley John, "Men vs. Women Golfers," Outing, LX (May 1912), pp. 193-200.

With the new found freedom of the 1920's, skirts shifted dramatically higher. (Figure 3.6.) Knickers were worn (Figure 3.7), but this appears to have been a passing trend rather than a definite fashion change. Through the thirties and forties the hemline dropped again although the long slim line was maintained.⁵⁵ (Figure 3.8)

In the 1960's the great boom in women's golf was accompanied by a great upsurge of interest in special clothes for this sport. The economic impact of this was quite staggering and apparel sales doubled in value in ten years. Higher fashion styling and greater wearability of the golf clothes along with the new stretch fabrics were responsible for this. Many fashion designers now work exclusively with sportswear as it has become a very lucrative business. The mini skirt was popularized on the professional circuit and enhanced even further by television. (Figure 3.9) In the 1970's shorts, trousers, skirts and dresses have all been accepted on the golf course and many of these designs find their way to the casual-wear department of high fashion.⁵⁶ (Figure 3.10)

⁵⁵Grimsley, op. cit., pp. 198, 212.

⁵⁶Larry Dennis, "Who are all those women and what are they doing on my Golf Course?," Golf Digest, July 1972, pp. 30-33, 90.



Figure 3.1

Golf Costumes in the Nineteenth Century⁵⁷

⁵⁷Grimsley, op. cit., p. 264.



Figure 3.2
Golf Dress 1901⁵⁸



Figure 3.3
Golf Costume 1904⁵⁹

⁵⁸William H. Rau, "How Miss Griscom Plays Golf," Ladies Home Journal, XVIII (April 1901), p. 9.

⁵⁹Caroline F. Manice, "Women who play golf well - and ungracefully," Outing, XXXV (April-September 1904), p. 285.



Figure 3.4
Golf Outfit 1912⁶⁰



Figure 3.5
Golf Outfit 1912⁶¹

⁶⁰Ashley, op. cit., p. 195.

⁶¹Ibid., p. 196.



Figure 3.6

Golf Costumes at the 1929 Championship⁶²

⁶²The Sportswoman, November 1929, p. 7.



Figure 3.7
Knicker-bockers
of the 1920's⁶³



Figure 3.8
Golf Outfit 1949⁶⁴

⁶³Harry Martin, Fifty Years of American Golf (New York: Dodd Mead & Co., 1972), p. 199.

⁶⁴Grimsley, op. cit., p. 212.



Figure 3.9
Golf Mini Skirt⁶⁵

⁶⁵Dennis, op. cit., p. 34.



Figure 3.10

Slacks and Shorts on the Golf Course⁶⁶

⁶⁶Ibid., p. 35.

TENNIS

History

This sport was introduced to the United States by Mary Outerbridge in 1874 and within three years women had organized their own national championship. However, in 1889, the United States Lawn Tennis Association included women for the first time and thus became the controlling body for all amateur tennis.⁶⁷ Women's tennis developed rather slowly at first but by 1920 the New York Times reported three million players. From the 1930's on, this sport has been listed as one of the most popular for women.⁶⁸

Costumes

During the passage of time women's tennis costumes have not only become briefer but have affected trends in everyday fashion-wear. In the 1870's long full dresses that reached the ankles were worn with layers of rustling petticoats. They were accompanied by floppy wide brimmed hats.⁶⁹ Some dresses were so long that

⁶⁷Will Grimsley, Tennis: Its History, People and Events (Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice Hall, 1971), pp. 9-11; Menke, op. cit., pp. 963-964; USLTA, Official Encyclopedia of Tennis (Edited by the Staff, USLTA, New York: Harper & Row, 1972), pp. 22-23.

⁶⁸USLTA, op. cit., pp. 27-47.

⁶⁹Grimsley, op. cit., p. 126.

players had to hold their skirt up with one hand when they stepped after the ball. In the first national championship of 1887, players were described as being clad in long full skirted, tight waisted gingham dresses with plenty of starched petticoats underneath and large top-heavy felt hats. (Figure 4.1) They were armed with square-toed rackets which were used for underhand serves and forehands. Backhands, overhead serves and net play were virtually unknown.⁷⁰

By the 1890's tennis was accepted as a sport for ladies and various fashion magazines included patterns and articles for tennis costumes. The Delineator in 1892 contained a pattern for a blue and white cotton and twill full length tennis frock with velvet and ragged lace for decoration.⁷¹ In the same year the Ladies Home Journal suggested a tennis suit as well as a tennis dress. The dress was in white flannel with matching blue silk. Even the shoes and stockings were chosen to match this color scheme with white canvas shoes being worn over blue stockings. (Figure 4.2) However, the tennis suit was more important and was described as the proper wear for the expert player. (Figure 4.3) This outfit was in matching red and white and was worn with a large apron with pockets

⁷⁰USLTA, op. cit., p. 24.

⁷¹"Ladies Tennis Toilette," The Delineator, XXXIX, 6 (June 1892), pp. 534, 536-537.

for holding the balls. The white hat was to be decorated with red poppies and the usual white shoes were worn with red stockings.⁷²

The restrictive clothing worn at this time seems inappropriate to the rising quality of the game. Marie Wagner, an indoor champion in 1908 was still wearing a skirt that came two to three inches off the ground. She suggested that no girl should appear unless upholstered with a corset, a starched petticoat, and a starched skirt and blouse.⁷³ In 1910 Chambers, a previous champion, advised players to shorten their skirts to four to five inches from the ground. She suggested that serge, flannel or cotton were the most suitable material and white was the best color.⁷⁴ (Figure 4.4) This was the first mention of white as the color for tennis dresses. Throughout the second decade players continued to wear the long skirt with a shirt waister blouse.

In 1919 Suzanne Lenglen caused a sensation by appearing in a one-piece, short-sleeved, pleated dress without a petticoat. It had a low-cut neckline and was mid-calf in length. She was hatless but made famous by a distinctive bandana.⁷⁵ As skirts shortened

⁷²Isabel A. Mallon, "Costumes for Lawn Tennis," Ladies Home Journal, IX (July 1892), p. 25.

⁷³USLTA, op. cit., p. 26.

⁷⁴Mrs. Lambert Chambers, Lawn Tennis for Ladies (London: Methuen and Co., 1910), p. 65.

⁷⁵Grimsley, op. cit., p. 126; Gerber et al., op. cit., p. 33.

in this decade, tennis skirts crept to knee length (Figures 4.5 and 4.6), while stockings were finally discarded in 1929.⁷⁶

From this time on, tennis players have continued to wear freer and shorter costumes although the hemlines did drop with the fashion trend in the thirties. Helen Jacobs was prohibited from wearing shorts in the early 1930's, but within five years these became accepted as regular tennis wear.⁷⁷ (Figure 4.7) Ladies limbs were emancipated in the thirties and so were their heads. Sun visors, bandanas, caps and hats of every kind replaced the old wide brimmed styles.

In 1949 when Teddy Tinling designed Gussie Moran's lace panties for the Wimbledon Championship a new era started in tennis clothing. (Figure 4.8) Tinling had been a London socialite couturier before this time and this was his debut into the world of sportswear.⁷⁸ It was the beginning of a long and profitable association for both the designer and women's tennis. As a noted couturier, he was able to give sportswear "class" and put femininity back into sportswear.⁷⁹ Contemporary tennis costumes are composed of the new fabrics that stretch, breathe and wear well. Unfortunately Tinling creations have moved out of the price range of the average player, as individually designed dresses now cost upwards of \$200. (Figure 4.9)

⁷⁶Ibid., p. 35.

⁷⁷Ibid., p. 35.

⁷⁸Carol Troy, "A Long Way Teddy," WomenSport, September 1974, p. 62.

⁷⁹Ibid., p. 64.

Dresses, mini skirts and blouses as well as brief shorts and tops remain the most popular as slacks are too restrictive. With designers like Tinling, tennis costumes have now broken away from the fashions of the day as they concentrate on giving the players the most flattering designs while still allowing for movement. This can be seen with the persistence of these brief costumes while the everyday hemlines have dropped below the knee.

Since the beginning of this game tennis costumes have evolved from strictly following everyday fashion styles, through the 1920's when they assisted with the revolutionary dress trends to the modern era where designers confidently produce their own styles.



Figure 4.1
Tennis Outfits 1887



Figure 4.2
Tennis Dress 1892⁸²

⁸¹USLTA, op. cit., p. 24.

⁸²Mallon, op. cit., p. 25.



Figure 4.3
Tennis Suit 1892⁸³



Figure 4.4
Tennis Outfit 1910⁸⁴

⁸³Ibid.

⁸⁴Chambers, op. cit., p. 24.



Figure 4.5
Tennis Outfit 1921-22⁸⁵



Figure 4.6
Tennis Costume 1921-22⁸⁶

⁸⁵L. L. Little, "Our Leading Tennis Women," Outing, LXXXI, October 1922, p. 24.

⁸⁶Ibid.



Figure 4.7

Wightman Cup Team 1934⁸⁷

⁸⁷Lawn Tennis Guide, Edited by Irving C. Wright and Samuel Hardy (New York: American Sports Publishing Company, 1935), p. 50.



Figure 4.8

Teddy Tinling Tennis Creations⁸⁸

A. Gussie Moran's Outfit 1949

B. Maureen Connolly's Dress 1953

C. 1960

⁸⁸Troy, op. cit., pp. 64, 66.



Figure 4.9

Individually Designed Tennis Outfits 1975⁸⁹

⁸⁹Ibid., p. 63.

SUMMARY

All four sports costumes which the researcher examined followed the fashion trends of the times, particularly from 1875-1920's. However, from the twenties to the present era individual differences are apparent. Archery costumes, which seem to have stayed closer to everyday styles for a longer period of time than any other sport seems to have been regulated colorwise. Green was the official color in the early years and this has been replaced by white in recent times. Perhaps the very nature of the sport with its lack of violent physical activity combined with fewer participants has allowed these restrictions to exist.

Women bowlers were among the earliest sportswomen to recognize and advocate freedom of movement in the clothing worn for sport and as early as the 1890's their champions were advising players to loosen their corsets. From 1910 on team uniforms became an important part of the bowling costumes and this is perhaps closely linked with the industrial sponsorship given to this sport. Team uniforms were a form of advertising for these companies. Bowling was one of the earliest sports to attract special attention from the clothing manufacturers and as early as the 1940's a special bowling dress was introduced. Since then clothing companies have been aware of the lucrative market in this area and not only supply wearing apparel but sponsor tournaments and award prizes. The WIBC did regulate dress to the extent that it banned slacks and shorts from the national championships. Today, however, only shorts are barred.

Golf costumes have changed from following the restrictive fashionable styles of earlier years to that of producing their own outfits which may bear little resemblance to everyday fashion. The great boom in women's golf since the 1960's and the accompanying upsurge in wearing apparel has made women's golf wear a very lucrative business. Because golf does not require violent physical exercise many of the outfits now designed for the golf course are worn by women for everyday casual wear. In this way golf more than any other individual sport studied has had a considerable impact on the fashion world.

Tennis dress has been unique in one way because although no rules can be found which regulate white as the official color, it has been used exclusively since the early 1900's.⁸⁰ As with other individual sports, tennis followed the fashionable styles of the times until the 1920's when tennis players accustomed the public eye to body exposure and assisted with the revolutionary changes in women's dress. No sleeves, low necks, no stockings and the wearing of brief shorts were some of these changes. In this way, tennis produced fashion trends. In recent times color has been added to tennis costumes, but even with this the vigorous nature of the game does restrict the use of some clothing. For example, slacks are too restrictive and hot. Nowadays, costumes are produced by special tennis-wear designers to give an individuality and exclusiveness to the garment.

⁸⁰Letter from Eve F. Kraft, Director of USTA Education and Research Center, April 16, 1976.

CHAPTER 5
COSTUMES IN TEAM SPORTS 1875-1975

BASEBALL - SOFTBALL

History

The sport of softball evolved from a type of indoor baseball which was devised in 1887. No extensive participation by women was recorded until the 1920's, although the game was introduced at Vassar College as early as 1876.¹ In the 1880's, a Mr. Freeman sponsored a professional female baseball club, but this so shocked the Victorian ideas of the time that the club folded after two seasons.² The indoor game was considered more suitable and this along with Playground Ball with its soft ball and shortened throwing distances was responsible for the increased participation by women.³ By 1925, eleven colleges and universities in the Northeastern section of the United States had included this sport in their athletic program.⁴ The Amateur Softball Association was officially formed in 1933, and as the governing body for all amateur softball,

¹Dorothy S. Ainsworth, The History of Physical Education in Colleges for Women (New York: A. S. Barnes, 1930), p. 30.

²David Z. Voigt, American Baseball (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1966), p. 211.

³Gladys E. Palmer, Baseball for Girls and Women (New York: A. S. Barnes, 1929), p. 4.

⁴Ainsworth, op. cit., p. 30.

it has been responsible for conducting annual National Tournaments as well as standardizing rules. Both men and women acted as volunteer instructors and served as coaches, umpires and members of the Executive committee.⁵ The numbers of regular participants are listed as follows: 1947 - 1,000,000;⁶ 1953 - nearly 2,000,000;⁷ 1965 - 2,700,000; 1975 - 8,500,000.⁸ The game is now played in all states, although in the early years it was centered in the Midwest.

Professional women's softball or baseball, under the auspices of the All American Girls Baseball League was organized in 1943. This league lasted for twelve years and consisted of ten Midwest clubs whose players earned salaries between \$50-\$125 per week.⁹ The International Women's Professional Softball League began in the summer of 1976 with ten teams competing.¹⁰

Costumes

Early baseball-softball costumes followed the fashions of the time as evidenced by the young women at Smith College who played in train-dresses in 1895. It was stated that the batters still managed

⁵Letter from Dave Hill, Director of Public Relations, Amateur Softball Association, May 5, 1976.

⁶Menke, 1947, op. cit., p. 884. ⁷Menke, 1953, op. cit., p. 804.

⁸Letter from Dave Hill, ASA, May 5, 1976.

⁹"Baseball: Babette Ruths," Newsweek, July 29, 1946, pp. 68-69.

¹⁰W. G. Nicholson, "Women's Pro Baseball Packed the Stands," WomenSports, April 1976, p. 24.

to look feminine as they raced to first base holding both the bat and their skirts.¹¹ Little evidence is available until the 1920's when the middy blouse and knee length baggy bloomers were worn with long black stockings and ankle boots.¹² (Figure 5.1) Later in this decade the knicker-bockers became popular and were worn with knee length socks and laced boots or heavy shoes. Long sleeved shirts with ties completed the outfit.¹³ (Figure 5.2)

Throughout the thirties the Official Softball Guide advised adult players to wear gymnasium rompers or pleated shorts with shirts as their uniform.¹⁴ However, in the next decade knickers or slacks were recommended as a precaution against injuries and infection. At this time it was also stated that the pitcher must be dressed in dark blue or black with no lettering or trimming on the front. This also applied to fielders stationed behind her.¹⁵ This rule did not last very long as by 1947 even the champion teams were wearing brightly colored outfits. The Queens of Phoenix were

¹¹Harriet E. Seelye, "Festivals at American Colleges" (Smith), The Century Magazine, XLIV (January 1895), p. 433.

¹²Palmer, op. cit., pp. 34-35.

¹³Handbook of Athletic Activities for Women and Girls, 1928-29 (New York: American Sports Publishing Co., 1928), p. 178.

¹⁴Katherine S. Kirwan, "Women's Softball - Municipally Speaking," Softball-Volleyball Guide (New York: A. S. Barnes, 1939), p. 11.

¹⁵Softball-Volleyball Guide, 1945-47, Edited by Katherine Ley and Bernie Finger (New York: A. S. Barnes, 1945), p. 61.

not only the champion team at this time but were also voted the best dressed. Their uniforms consisted of very short skirts worn over brief tights which gave the effect of a chorus line. There matching blouses and skirts had stripes of satin inserted to add color and were worn with ankle socks and shoes.¹⁶ (Figure 5.3) They were much briefer than the costumes worn by the players in the All American Girls Baseball League which was at its zenith at this time. These baseball players were strictly chaperoned at all times and received cosmetic training as well as deportment and grooming courses. They were not allowed to wear slacks or skin tight shorts off the field and their playing uniform was rigidly defined. The dresses had Sonja Henie skating skirts which had to fall within six inches of the knee cap. Knee length socks with shoes or boots and the regulation jockey-type baseball cap completed the outfit.¹⁷ (Figure 5.4)

From this time on, the only regulations for softball dress have stated that all uniforms must be matching. Through the forties, fifties and sixties styles have varied from the long smooth knicker-bockers with matching or contrasting tops (Figure 5.5), to the brief satin shorts and blouses.¹⁸ (Figure 5.6) At the 1975

¹⁶"New Look in Softball," Industrial Sports Journal, 8 (February 1949), pp. 18, 28.

¹⁷"Baseball: Babette Ruths," op. cit., pp. 68-69; Nicholson, op. cit., p. 24.

¹⁸Harry Redl, "Just Like Dad and Uncle Dominic," Sports Illustrated, September 7, 1959, p. 68; Softball-Track and Field Guide 1954-55 (Washington: NSCWS, 1953), p. 40; Softball Hall of Famers, Edited by Hugh Scott (Oklahoma: ASA, May 1973), pp. 20, 30.

World Championship the United States team dressed in brief white shorts and top with knee-high socks. Stripes in the national colors of red, white and blue adorned all parts of the costume.

It is difficult to follow the evolution of this uniform. From the train dresses of the last century, through the era of the middy and bloomers, the costumes of the last thirty years have not altered to any great extent. The knicker-bockers, skirts and brief shorts have all been accepted provided they were matching.



Figure 5.1

Middy and Bloomer Outfit 1920's¹⁹

¹⁹Palmer, op. cit., p. 34.

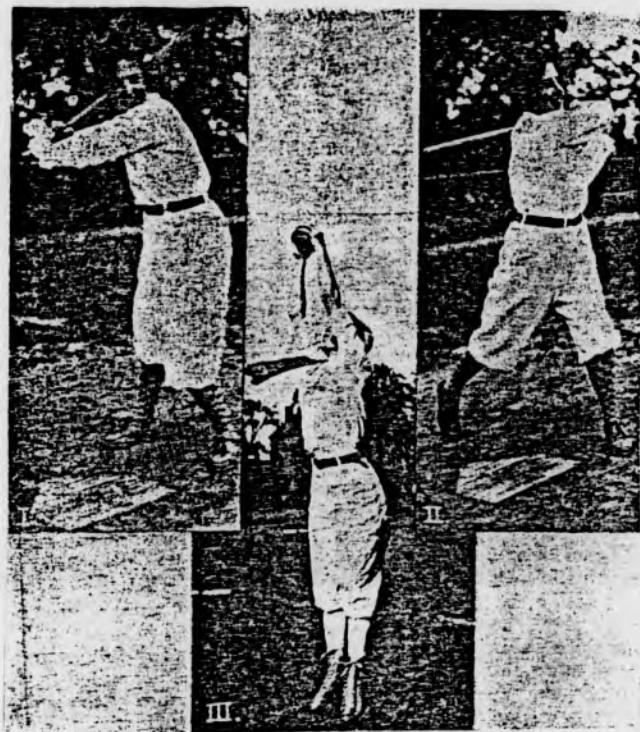


Figure 5.2

Softball Knicker-bockers 1928²⁰

²⁰Handbook of Athletic Activities for Women and Girls, 1928-29, op. cit., p. 178.



Figure 5.3
The "Queens of Phoenix"
1947²¹



Figure 5.4
All American Girls
Baseball 1946²²

²¹"New Look in Softball," op. cit., p. 18.

²²"Baseball: Babette Ruths," op. cit., p. 69.



Figure 5.5

Softball Costume 1959²³

²³Redl, op. cit., p. 68.



Figure 5.6

Satin Costumes 1968²³

Figure 5.7

Softball Costume 1975²⁴

²³National Softball Hall of Fame, Brochure, Published by the ASA, 1975.

²⁴Albrecht Louise, "Coaching Fundamentals for Consistant Softball Hitting," Woman Coach, January-February 1975, p. 20.

BASKETBALL

History

Girls and women took an active part in basketball within a few months of its creation. During 1892 it was played at Smith College and within the next few years many other colleges adopted the game.²⁵ It was so popular at Smith that by 1895 it had ousted baseball as the favorite sport.²⁶ Initially the development was through the schools and colleges, but from the beginning difficulties arose because of the many and varied sets of rules. Some physical educators considered the game too rough and competitive. Restrictive rules were added in an attempt to combat this.²⁷ Throughout most of its existence basketball has been under the control and influence of the Amateur Athletic Union, the Division of Girls and Women's Sports of AAHPER and the United States Olympic Committee. This has tended to divide rather than strengthen the game. Despite this, basketball has been one of the most popular sports and leagues are conducted by industries, municipalities, agencies and churches as well as colleges and universities.²⁸ The AAU has sponsored annual national tournaments since 1926 and has

²⁵John E. Krout, Annals of American Sport, volume 15 in The Pageant of America (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1929), p. 270.

²⁶Seelye, op. cit., p. 433.

²⁷Margaret R. Downing, "Women's Basketball: An Historical Review of Selected Organizations which Influenced its Ascension toward Advanced Competition in the United States" (Doctoral Dissertation, Texas Women's University, Denton, 1973), p. 25.

²⁸Ibid., pp. 23-52.

promoted district and regional competitions. Membership on this committee is by appointment and both men and women are eligible.²⁹ Initially most of the players came from the Midwest and Southwest areas but today the game is played in all states. In 1944 it was estimated that there were over 1,000,000 regular players,³⁰ but no reliable figures are available as the basketball associations did not reply to the writer's letters.

Costumes

In the fall of 1891 Naismith, the founder of the game is reported to have been amazed at the sight of women running across the floor and shooting at the basket. They were dressed in long trailing gowns with tightly bound waists and leg-of-mutton sleeves. In several cases some of the women even wore bustles.³¹ These women were competing in their street clothes, a trend that did not last very long. By 1894, the YWCA had included the game in its repertoire of activities and the trailing skirts were replaced by black serge long sleeve blouses with ties and full baggy bloomers, black stockings and shoes.³² (Figure 6.1) At Smith College in 1895 train

²⁹Ibid., pp. 74-108.

³⁰Menke, 1944, op. cit., p. 130.

³¹Helen B. Lawrence and Grace I. Fox, Basketball for Girls and Women (New York: McGraw Hill & Co., 1954), p. 178.

³²Mary-Stuart Garden, "The YWCA's first 100 Years," JOHNER, 26 (February 1955), p. 16.

dressess were not allowed and gymnasium suits were the accepted attire. This was almost identical to the YWCA costume with its full below-the-knees bloomers, long hose and leather shoes. All the teams are pictured in very dark colors.³³ This persisted as the basketball uniform for college and university teams with the only change being made in the style of the blouse. Very often sailor collars were worn.³⁴ (Figure 6.2) In 1909 uniforms had changed very little except that canvas gym shoes were advocated as the appropriate footwear with either the gym costume or short skirt.³⁵

The second decade of the twentieth century witnessed very little difference in costume styles. It took seven and one-half yards of material to make these baggy bloomers and they were worn with white middy blouses, black blouses with sailor collars or plain loose black tops. A notable feature of this time was the widespread use of large ribbons and scarves for the hair. (Figure 6.3) Huge bows often adorned the front of the hair or else all the hair was hidden by scarves tied in the "char lady" style.³⁶ In 1916

³³Krout, op. cit., p. 270.

³⁴Carolyn Halsted, "What a Girl Does at College," Ladies Home Journal, XIX (January 1902), pp. 24-25.

³⁵Gertrude Dudley and Frances Kellor, Athletic Games for Women (New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1909), p. 189.

³⁶Lillian Randall, "Basketball 1912-1916," Sportswoman (September 1974), pp. 29-31.

coaches were advised to ban the use of corsets under these basketball outfits, so it is presumed they were still worn at this time.³⁷

Throughout the 1920's, colleges and universities continued with this bloomer style although often it was made as a one-piece sleeveless costume worn with a short sleeved white blouse. It was triple pleated front and back to resemble the English style gym tunic.³⁸ (Figure 6.4) Club players were more adventuresome with their costume, as seen in Spalding's advertisement in 1927. (Figure 6.5) This consisted of a combination outfit of a slim fitting jersey top and matching slim-line shorts. Knee length socks and white canvas boots were included. This heralded the disappearance of all the bulky uniforms that had hindered the players up until this time. When the National All Star Girls Basketball Team toured the United States in 1931 they wore white satin trunks and red, white and blue jerseys.³⁹ Brief shorts or culottes (Figure 6.6), as well as romper suits or brief skirts have remained the uniform right through to this day. Many of the teams in the fifties and sixties showed a preference for satin material which was replaced by the new stretch fabrics in recent

³⁷Emily O'Keefe, "How to Organize and Coach Basketball," APEA, 21 (November 1916), p. 536.

³⁸Lou Eastwood Anderson, Basketball for Women (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1929), p. 12.

³⁹Ethel Bowes, "Girls Basketball - Work or Play," The Sports-woman, January 1931, pp. 15-16.

years. Colors are brighter and color combinations are often new but most have tended to stay with the plain colors rather than use floral or stripes. It is perhaps surprising to find this brief outfit still being worn with knee-high socks. (Figures 6.7 and 6.8)

From long traindresses, basketball quickly moved to the gymnasium costume of the time. This move developed well before other team sports in this study, but it is not surprising since basketball is the only indoor sport. The heavy dark colored serge outfits continued until the 1920's when light-weight, brief costumes were adopted. There has been little change in the last forty years.



Figure 6.1

Basketball Costumes 1894⁴⁰

⁴⁰Garden, op. cit., p. 16.



Figure 6.2

Smith College Team 1901⁴¹

⁴¹Halsted, op. cit., p. 24.



Figure 6.3

Basketball Costume 1912-1916⁴²

⁴²Randall, op. cit., p. 30.



Figure 6.4
College Basketball Uniform 1920's⁴³

⁴³Anderson, op. cit., p. 12

Basketball Uniforms



THIS COMBINATION makes an excellent basketball costume and one that is worn by many teams because of its smart appearance and general utility.

The *JERSEY* is our No. SPV, with contrasting trim on its V-neck and sleeves \$5.00

The *KNICKERS*—No. R—with stripes, at option, down sides, matching trim on the jersey 5.50
STRIPES, 50 Cents Extra

The *STOCKINGS*—No. RX—of fine quality worsted, in contrasting calf stripes—in any colors desired—and white feet 2.25

The *SHOES*—No. 968-Tan, or No. 969-Black—canvas uppers and rubber soles 2.50

Total \$15.25

JERSEYS, KNICKERS, STOCKINGS

MODEL GMK-3, Girls' Jersey. Round or V-neck. Quarter sleeves. Trimmed at neck; with elastic stitch trim on sleeves and around lower edge. \$4.50

MODEL BB. Basketball Special Flappers. Of No. 90 Flannel. [Colors] \$5.00

No. CRR. Soccer Stockings. Cuffs striped; contrasting color. Navy with white stripes; Black with red stripes; Royal Blue with white stripes; Green with white stripes \$1.75



A. G. Spalding & Bros

Figure 6.5

Spalding's Basketball Uniform 1927⁴⁴

⁴⁴Spalding's Athletic Activities for Girls and Women, 1927-28
 (New York: American Sports Publishing Co., 1927), p. 178.



Figure 6.6
Basketball Uniform 1944⁴⁵

⁴⁵Basketball Guide 1944-45 (New York: A. S. Barnes, 1944), p. 4.



Figure 6.7
Basketball Uniform 1975⁴⁶

⁴⁶WomenSports, July 1975, p. 39.



Figure 6.8
Basketball 1975⁴⁷

⁴⁷WomenSports, December 1975, p. 36.

FIELD HOCKEY

History

Some sporadic playing of field hockey occurred in the United States in the 1890's and records indicate that a club was formed on Staten Island.⁴⁸ However, these early efforts did not survive and Constance Applebee, an English physical education teacher is credited with starting the first organized body of women hockey players. This was in 1901 when she not only coached students and teachers who had never seen the game before but with Harriet Ballantine organized the American Field Hockey Association.⁴⁹ Initially the game was played almost exclusively by the posh colleges and universities of the Northeast where expert training was obtained each summer from visiting English coaches. Hockey clubs were formed in New York and Philadelphia in 1901 and by 1904 the club system was well established.⁵⁰

⁴⁸Menke, 1975, op. cit., p. 378; Constance Applebee, "Early Landmarks in American Hockey," in Selected Hockey and Lacrosse Articles, Edited by Caryl Newhof (Washington: NSGWS, 1955), pp. 9-12; Jenepher P. Shillingford, "History of the United States Field Hockey Association, 1922-1927," USFHA 50th Anniversary Publication (by the Association, 1972), p. 12.

⁴⁹Applebee, 1955, op. cit., p. 10; Menke, op. cit., p. 378; Shillingford, op. cit., p. 12.

⁵⁰Ibid., p. 13.

In 1922 the United States Field Hockey Association was officially formed with representatives from fifteen states attending the inaugural meeting. This association has conducted national tournaments since that time and has maintained very close ties with the All England Ladies Association. Membership in the USFHA has been limited to women only until very recently but now male umpires have been accepted as officials.⁵¹ The growth of the game has been very slow as indicated by the number of regular participants shown here: 1905 - 500; 1920 - 600+; 1935 - 1,700; 1950 - 2,000; 1965 - 4,000; 1975 - 8,800.⁵²

Costumes

Team uniforms for this sport have been in operation since its existence and these early dresses and skirts were almost identical to the fashions of the time. In the 1890's the hockey players wore blouses with leg-of-mutton sleeves and ties while the full serge skirts had to be within four inches of the ground. Heavy boots were worn by all players.⁵³ Figure 7.1 depicts the English hockey team of 1896. This is included in this study to show the dress of this particular time. English women were predominant in the Staten Island club of this era and the writer feels that apart from the caps in this picture it is a true likeness.

⁵¹Letter from Betty Shellenberger, Past Secretary, USFHA, May 4, 1976.

⁵²Letter from Betty Shellenberger, May 4, 1976.

⁵³"International Hockey," The Sportswoman, October 1928, p. 7.

By 1901 the rule had changed to a scandalous six inches off the ground, but as fashion still dictated that the ankles should be covered, many players persisted with the longer skirts that dragged in the mud at the back.⁵⁴ The more daring players overcame this problem by wearing a long coat to the match and thus their ankles would not be exposed to the public.⁵⁵ (Figure 7.2) The acceptable uniform described in 1904 consisted of a skirt of light woolen material worn without petticoats but with knicker-bockers fastened at the knee. The shirt was to be made of flannel to prevent chills and was to be loose to allow movement. Goalkeepers and full backs were advised to make sweaters in club colors as they would be useful on cold days.⁵⁶

In the second decade of this century the hockey costumes remained the same although now the skirts could vary between six and ten inches from the ground. Most players wore a separate skirt and blouse outfit while the tie was maintained and used for club identification. (Figure 7.3) The hair presented a major problem because the long Pompadour styles that were fashionable were difficult to fix securely. Many opportunities of playing the ball were lost as attention had to be given to loose braids and hairpins. Footwear was a matter of individual taste although

⁵⁴"The Well Dressed Hockey Player," The Sportswoman, June 1929, p. 7.

⁵⁵Ibid., p. 8.

⁵⁶Carolyn Kane, "74 Years of Bruised Shins," Ms. Magazine, September 1974, p. 71.

backs and goalkeepers were advised to wear heavy shoes because they were allowed to stop the ball with their feet.⁵⁷ (Figure 7.3)

From 1921-1924 hockey costumes were in a state of change and these were crucial years in the evolution of this dress. The usual costume for club players was a short skirt ten inches off the ground while the college players continued to wear the black bloomers and middy blouses.⁵⁸ (Figure 7.4) The English team visited the United States in 1922 and displayed a triple pleated tunic made of French flannel. In length it was slightly above the knees and was worn with a white under-blouse. (Figure 7.5) A fourth possibility was mentioned in the hope that it would become the permanent American hockey uniform. (Figure 7.6) This consisted of a skirt in cordoroy, a white madras blouse and a slip-over sweater worn with a narrow belt. Another uniform displayed depicted slimline knickers with one inch stripes down the sides in a contrasting color. They provided a smart costume when worn with a sleeveless sweater coat over a white shirt waister. (Figure 7.7) The sports blazer appeared at this time and has become an accepted part of the off-the-field uniform ever since.⁵⁹ (Figure 7.8) No doubt because of their close

⁵⁷Spalding's Field Hockey, Compiled by Constance Applebee as the Official Publication of the AFHA (New York: American Sports Publishing Co., 1919), p. 7.

⁵⁸Spalding's Field Hockey Guide, Compiled by Constance Applebee (New York: American Sports Publishing Co., 1921), p. 13.

⁵⁹Ibid., pp. 95, 98-101.

ties with England, the officials and players chose the English style tunic, for soon this uniform was seen on many playing fields. Bare legs were not shown at this time and long stockings in black or the club colors were worn. Berets were popular and many players also wore bandanas. (Figure 7.9)

In 1923 the USFHA lifted its rule on skirt length as well as the one forbidding the wearing of hat-pins and hard-brimmed hats. Since this time no rules regarding dress have been in force except to state that each team shall have a distinguishing costume.⁶⁰

Throughout the thirties and forties the uniform remained the same with black stockings being worn by the U. S. team until 1953. (Figures 7.10 and 7.11) The English gym tunic had risen to at least six inches above the knee but otherwise there were no changes.⁶¹ The stockings were replaced by ankle socks or knee length hose according to individual preference. (Figure 7.12)

For forty years the costume remained the same and it was not until the late sixties that the English tunic was finally discarded by most teams. It was replaced by a more flattering uniform in the form of a kilt skirt worn with a blouse. Footwear has changed to

⁶⁰Shillingford, op. cit., p. 14; Letter from the USFHA, May 4, 1976.

⁶¹Sarah Palfrey, "Mother Stands at Guard," Sports Illustrated, December 1954, pp. 51-53; Field Hockey-Lacrosse Guide, Edited by Martha Gable and Louise Burbeck (New York: A. S. Barnes & Co., 1941), p. 9; Field Hockey-Lacrosse Guide, September 1952-54 (Washington, D.C.: DGWS, 1952), p. 17.

include only light weight shoes and knee-high socks are more prevalent than ankle hose.⁶² (Figure 7.13)

Field hockey dresses followed the normal fashions of the time until the 1920's. Although many possibilities were offered in this decade the players and officials copied the unflattering English tunics which remained with them for the next forty years. Since the late sixties the hockey players have sought some individuality with the advent of the kilt skirt. It is now seen in plaids and bright colors and is worn with the modern stretch shirts that move and breathe.

⁶²Pat Ryan, "Tea and Shiners in Glassboro," Sports Illustrated, December 1968, pp. 24-25; Field Hockey-Lacrosse Guide 1974-76 (Washington, D. C.: DGWS, 1974), p. 12.



Figure 7.1
English Hockey Uniform 1896⁶³

⁶³"International Hockey," op. cit., p. 7.

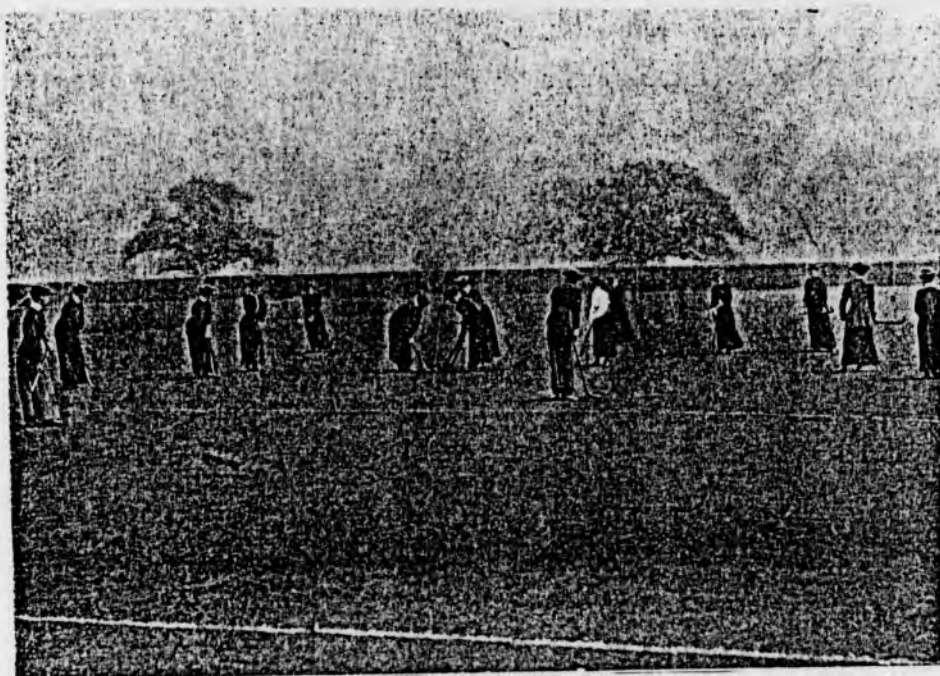


Figure 7.2
Field Hockey Game 1901⁶⁴

⁶⁴"The Well Dressed Hockey Player," op. cit., p. 7.



Figure 7.3
Field Hockey Costume 1918⁶⁵

⁶⁵Spalding's Field Hockey, 1919, op. cit., on front cover.



Figure 7.4
Blouse and Middy 1921⁶⁶



Figure 7.5
English Gym Tunic 1921⁶⁷

⁶⁶Spalding's Field Hockey Guide, 1922, op. cit., p. 101.

⁶⁷Ibid., p. 95.



Figure 7.6
Suggested American
Uniform 1921⁶⁸



Figure 7.7
Knicker-bockers and
Sweater 1921⁶⁹

⁶⁸Ibid., p. 98.

⁶⁹Ibid., p. 99.



Figure 7.8
Hockey Blazer 1921⁷⁰

⁷⁰Ibid., p. 100.



Figure 7.9
USFHA Team 1924⁷¹

⁷¹Spalding's Field Hockey Guide, Official Guide of the USFHA
(New York: American Sports Publishing Co., 1924), p. 1.

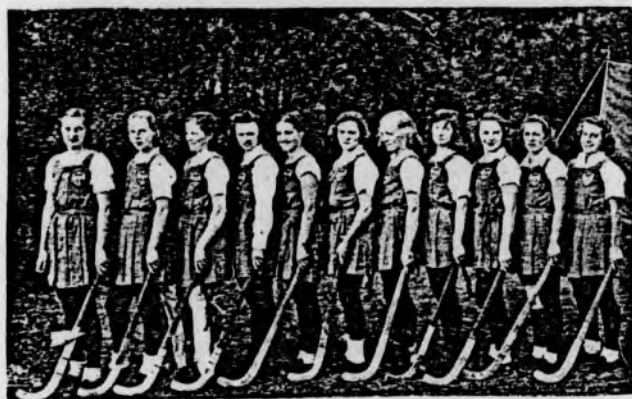


Figure 7.10

Field Hockey Uniforms 1940⁷²



Figure 7.11

Field Hockey Uniforms 1951⁷³

⁷²Field Hockey-Lacrosse Guide, 1941, op. cit., p. 9.

⁷³Field Hockey-Lacrosse Guide, 1952-54, op. cit., p. 17.



Figure 7.12
USFHA Team 1963⁷⁴



Figure 7.13
Field Hockey Uniform 1968⁷⁵

⁷⁴USFHA 50th Anniversary Publication (by the Association, 1972), p. 19.

⁷⁵Ryan, op. cit., p. 28.

LACROSSE

History

Although lacrosse originated among the Indians as the game known as "Baggatway," it was not until the English women re-introduced it to the United States that it was accepted as a game for women.⁷⁶ An attempt was made in 1908 to play the game at Bryn Mawr College, but this interest was only temporary.⁷⁷ Another trial attempt was made between 1914-1917 when Caroline Gasgoine brought the sport to Sweet Briar College in Virginia and also taught it at one of Sargent's summer school camps.⁷⁸ In neither place did it succeed in taking root and it was not until the early 1920's that some permanent interest was seen. Many of the Eastern college and universities introduced it at this time while the first club was started in 1926.⁷⁹ In 1932 the United States Women's Lacrosse Association was formed and it conducted the first national tournament the following year. The game became popular with hockey players who sought a spring game to keep in shape and many participants have been named on both United States squads. However, the game has spread very slowly

⁷⁶Constance Applebee, "The Story of Lacrosse and How We Came to Play It," The Sportswoman, November 1929, pp. 12-13; Margaret Sheahan, "The Story of Lacrosse," Field Hockey-Lacrosse Guide, 1944-45 (New York: A. S. Barnes & Co., 1945), p. 97; USWLA, "International Women's Lacrosse," JOHPER (January 1952), pp. 13-15.

⁷⁷Applebee, op. cit., p. 13.

⁷⁸Martha Gable, "The Increasing Popularity of Lacrosse for Girls," JOHPER, 6 (November 1935), pp. 31, 60; Alexander M. Weyand and Milton R. Roberts, The Lacrosse Story (Baltimore: H. & A. Herman, 1965), p. 272.

⁷⁹Ibid., p. 272.

and is still predominantly a Northeastern sport. Its minimal growth pattern can be seen from the following figures: 1935 - 5 local associations; 1948 - 6 local associations and 23 schools and colleges;⁸⁰ 1951 - approximately 500 adult players and 75 schools and colleges;⁸¹ 1976 - 800 adult players and over 100 schools and colleges.⁸²

Costumes

From the 1920's when the game was coached alongside field hockey the lacrosse uniform has remained almost identical to the field hockey costume. In 1929 when the English coaches were busy teaching at clinics, players were wearing the triple pleated tunic with long sleeved blouses and black stockings and ankle boots.⁸³ (Figure 8.1) College players of this time wore the baggy bloomer outfits but surprisingly no stockings. (Figure 8.2) This trend of playing with bare legs was also seen with the adult players in 1933. The United States team of this year is shown wearing the gym tunic and girdle with a short sleeved blouse and ankle socks and

⁸⁰Gerber. et al., op. cit., p. 113.

⁸¹Riherd, op. cit., p. 228.

⁸²Barbara Lee Doran, "Lacrosse is Nothing New," WomenSports, February 1976, pp. 23-25.

⁸³Joyce Riley, "A Few Coaching Hints for the Lacrosse Season," The Sportswoman, November 1930, p. 7.

shoes.⁸⁴ (Figure 8.3) This makes the lacrosse players about twenty years ahead of the hockey players who continued to wear stockings until the mid-fifties. Throughout the forties (Figure 8.4), fifties (Figure 8.5) and the early sixties there was no change in the uniform except for a slight shortening of the length of the skirt. In the sixties the lacrosse players changed to wearing the much slimmer kilt skirts and tops, while in the seventies ankle socks have given way to the sporty foot socks and blouses have become sleeveless.⁸⁵ (Figure 8.6)

Like the sport of field hockey this game has close ties with England. The English tunic was adopted in the 1920's and remained the official uniform for the next forty years. Except for the wearing of kilts in the last few years this must surely be the only sport to provide only one costume.

⁸⁴Field Hockey-Lacrosse Guide, Official Publication of the APEA and USFHA (New York: American Publishing Co., 1934), p. 52.

⁸⁵Doran, op. cit., pp. 23, 25; Field Hockey-Lacrosse Guide, 1972-74 (Washington, D. C.: DGWS, 1972), p. 117.



Figure 8.1
Lacrosse Costume 1929⁸⁶



Figure 8.2
College Lacrosse Uniform 1920's⁸⁷

⁸⁶Riley, op. cit., p. 7.

⁸⁷Ainsworth, op. cit., p. 87.

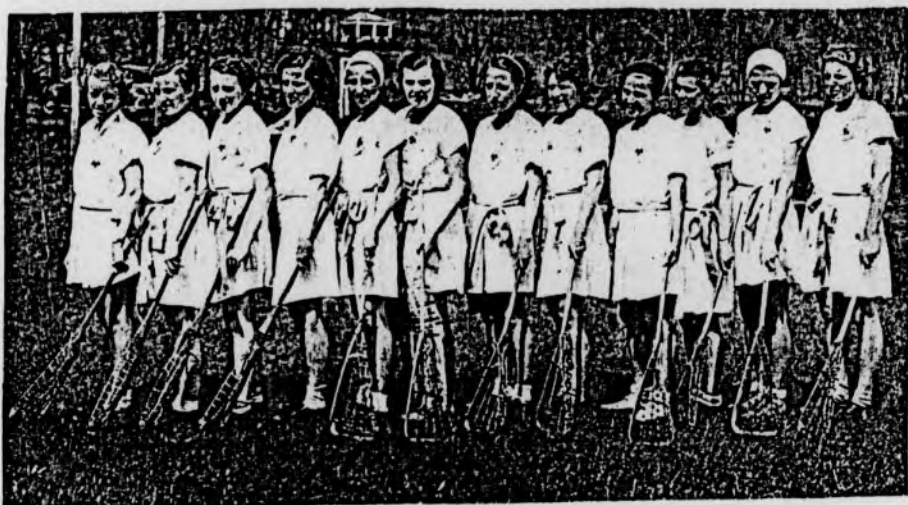


Figure 8.3
USWLA Team 1933⁸⁸

⁸⁸Field Hockey-Lacrosse Guide, 1934, op. cit., p. 52.



Figure 8.4

US Team 1945⁸⁹

⁸⁹Field Hockey-Lacrosse Guide (New York: A. S. Barnes & Co., 1946), p. 105.



Figure 8.5
US Team 1956⁹⁰

⁹⁰Field Hockey-Lacrosse Guide (Washington, D. C.: NSGWS, 1956),
p. 108.



Figure 8.6
Lacrosse Costumes 1975⁹¹

⁹¹Doran, op. cit., p. 23.

SUMMARY

Although these team sports require the wearing of a matching uniform, all sports have their individual differences. Field hockey and lacrosse are most alike, and this is probably a result of the close association between these two sports and with their antecedent roots in England.

Baseball-softball players who wore train dresses obviously followed the fashions during the end of the nineteenth century. In the 1920's when the knicker-bockers came into fashion they were adopted by this sport and have been included ever since. However, from the 1930's on, brief skirts and brief shorts have been popular even though they give no protection for the legs when sliding into bases. The glamour appeal of these costumes must outweigh their practicality. For the last thirty years softball costumes have not really evolved as the same three outfits have been accepted.

Although basketball players initially participated in their street clothes, within a few years after the inception of the sport, the gymnasium costume was the accepted attire. This early adoption of a special costume makes this sport unique and may have resulted because it is an indoor sport. This bulky, dark-colored, unattractive bloomer and middy costume was the regular outfit until the 1920's. However, since this time basketball players have lightened and brightened their uniforms but still retain the knee high socks.

Field hockey was similar to baseball in that the early costumes followed the fashions of the times. Players suffered because of this as their long skirts often dragged in the mud. The years 1921-1924 appear to have been the most crucial in regards to this uniform. At this time various uniforms were suggested, but the players and officials copied the English style tunic instead. With the advent of this tunic the evolution of this particular costume stopped. For forty years the same uniform was seen and players persisted with wearing the long black stockings well after other sports had discarded them.

Lacrosse is a much newer game in the United States and has been closely associated with field hockey. The English influence is also seen in this sport where the triple pleated tunic was the only costume from the 1920's until recent years. Lacrosse players did however, discard the long stockings before their first international meet in 1933.

CHAPTER 6

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to examine the evolution of women's sports costumes in the following eight sports: archery, baseball-softball, basketball, bowling, field hockey, golf, lacrosse, and tennis.

Specifically, answers were sought to the following questions;

1. Who selected costumes for the particular sports?

The answer to this question is still unknown as the writer was unable to obtain sufficient primary information. Of the five sports associations that replied to the researcher's letters, only bowling and field hockey leaders admitted regulating dress. Other replies stated that players followed the current fashions. In the case of team uniforms the only requirement was that they must be matching.

2. a. How have individual sports costumes related to fashion trends in society?

The sports of archery, bowling, golf and tennis have presented a heterogeneous picture in this respect. Archers have never deviated from the fashions of the time and have not produced a special archery costume. Bowlers, however, stayed with the fashions

of the times until the 1940's when a special bowling dress was designed. Since then many different bowling outfits have been developed. Golfers continued to wear everyday clothes until the great upsurge of interest in the 1960's. From this time on, golfers have designed their own special costumes. The first individual sport to produce a special costume and so break away from regular fashion clothes was tennis. This occurred in the 1920's and ever since this sport has continued to develop and modify their own special outfits.

2. b. How have team sports costumes related to fashion trends in society?

The team sports of baseball-softball, basketball, field hockey and lacrosse have also shown that each sport is a separate entity. Baseball-softball followed the fashion trends until the 1940's when brief skirts and shorts joined the regular knicker-bocker outfits. However, since that time no further changes have been seen. Basketball players left everyday fashion clothes as early as 1894, when they adopted the current gymnasium costume. This baggy-bloomer outfit remained the same until the 1920's when it was lightened and brightened. Since this time, brief shorts and skirts have been the regular costume. Field hockey players stayed with the fashion trends until the early 1920's when they adopted the English-style tunic as their special uniform. This uniform remained unchanged for the next forty years, except for the deletion of black stockings which were worn until the mid-fifties. Lacrosse

not only developed alongside field hockey, but also had close ties with England. These players wore the English tunic from the 1920's but discarded the long stockings as early as 1933.

2. c. How have individual sports costumes related to team sports costumes?

While there appears to be no general answer to this question, one notable feature is that team sports costumes do not change as often as individual sports outfits. All the team sports have retained the same uniforms for many years, while the individual sports have shown different styles at least every ten years. This also applied to bowling which was in the unique position of being an individual sport that used a team uniform.

3. a. Has the nature of the game affected costume selection and development?

This appears to be the main reason for the development of a special costume. The more vigorous games such as tennis, field hockey, basketball and lacrosse produced a special outfit much earlier than the more sedate sports.

3. b. Has the composition of the internal structure of sports associations affected costume selection and development.

The answer to this question is not clear, as sports associations that have been conducted entirely by women (bowling, field hockey and lacrosse) have not shown any distinctive traits.

3. c. Has the institutional affiliation of a sport affected costume selection and development?

Within the limitations of this study, only educational institutions were considered. Basketball, field hockey and lacrosse have been closely associated with educational institutions such as schools and colleges. Two factors have distinguished the costumes used for these sports. Foremost, sport uniforms have been very unflattering and bulky until recently. Also, changes in style and design have taken place over a long evolutionary period.

CONCLUSIONS

Within the limits of this investigation, the writer has drawn the following conclusions:

1. Sports costumes from 1875-1920 followed the fashion trends of the time. Even basketball did this, but as an indoor, single sex sport, it used the gymnasium costume of the time.
2. Special costume development began in the 1920's, yet each sport has produced its own, unique variations.
3. The nature of the game itself seems to have affected costume development more than comparative classifications between individual or team sport.
4. Sports that have been closely associated with educational institutions have tended to develop unflattering costumes.

IMPLICATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The following recommendations for future research relating to the historical development of sports costumes were suggested by this investigation:

1. All sports need an in-depth study of the historical development of their particular costume, as information is very sketchy. For example, the USLTA stated that they have never regulated white as the color of their costume, and yet it has been the accepted color since the early 1900's. Beyond the impact of the governing associations, few have questioned the impact of clothing manufacturers, sporting goods manufacturers and sports participants themselves on sports costume development.

2. Pictures of sports clothes, as well as everyday clothes, can provide an accurate dating system for historical purposes. However, the writer found a number of errors in this respect, and both the WIBC and the USLTA are re-checking their files at this time. This one area alone calls for careful and thorough investigation as secondary sources tend to compound original mistakes.

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